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A LITTLE STUDY IN CONFORMATION.

IF THOSE readers who sometimes wonder why it is not possible to combine in the same cow the highest milking qualities and the ability to make the best beef will study the two pictures on this page a little, we believe they will readily see why this is true.

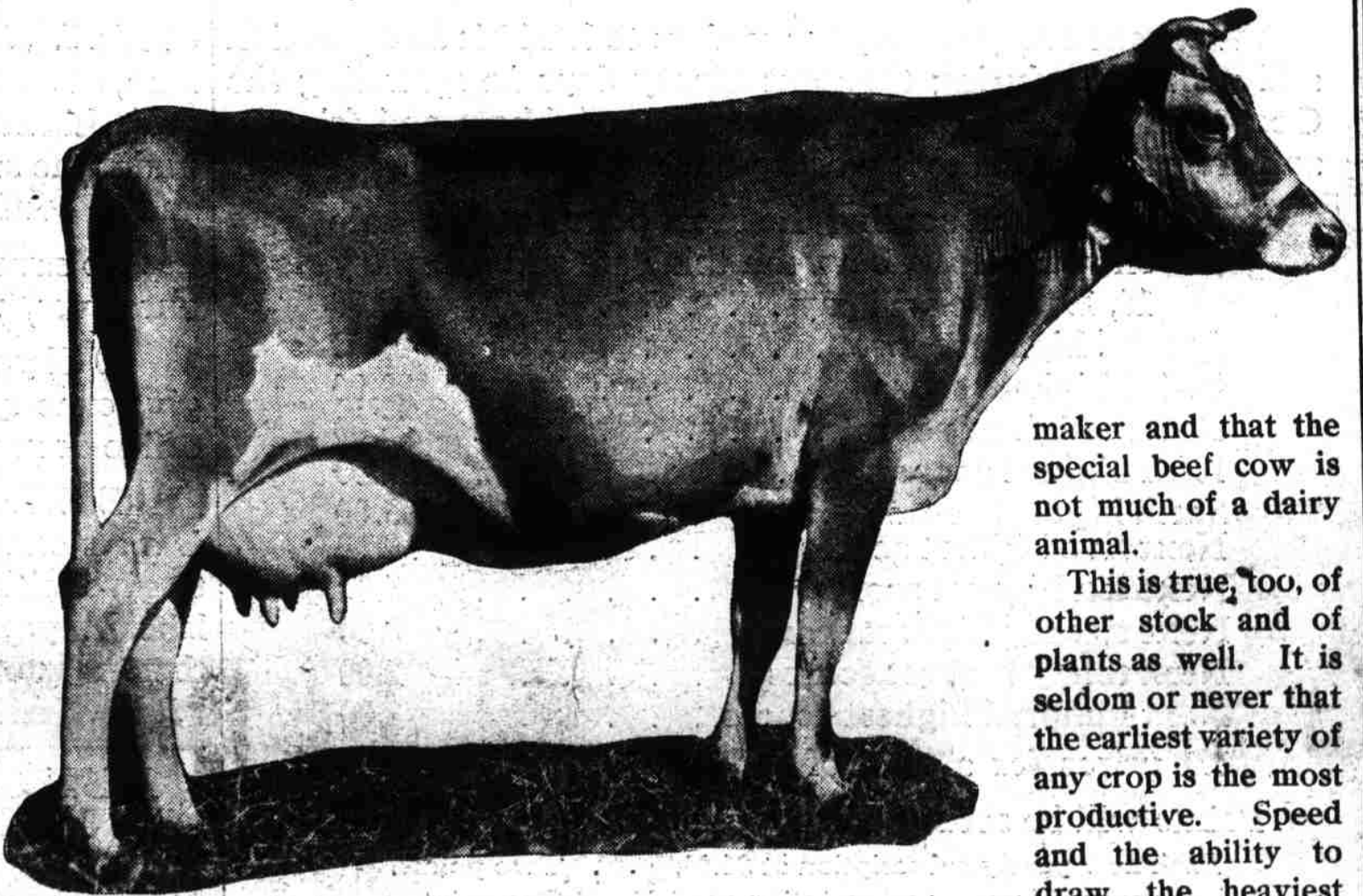
The cow at the top was the first prize Jersey at the recent National Dairy Show. The other is a prize-winning Shorthorn belonging to Lespedeza Farm. The Jersey represents the highest development of the milking type. The Shorthorn is an excellent specimen of the beef type.

It needs but a glance to show that there is a great difference in the form of these two animals, but not until one compares the two, point by point, and notes the difference in conformation—that is, in general form and adaptability to a special purpose—can he realize how great this difference really is.

It is the business of the Jersey to convert the feed she eats into milk, and she is built for this purpose. Notice the spareness of flesh, not a surplus pound anywhere; the depth of body, which gives room for a large digestive apparatus; the capacious udder; the prominent milk veins; the clean limbs and head.

Then look at the Shorthorn. Notice the entire absence of the sharp points and prominent bones to be seen on the Jersey. See how well-fleshed she is on ribs and thighs; compare her square shape—almost like a block—with the several wedges which the Jersey presents when looked at from different points. It is the business of the Shorthorn to convert the feed she eats into flesh, and she does it. She gives enough milk to support her calf until it is old enough to wean and that is about all that is expected in this line.

Of course, there are breeds of cattle, and individual cows of some breeds, which have fair milking capacity and at the same time make good beef, but the rule holds that the best dairy cow is a poor beef

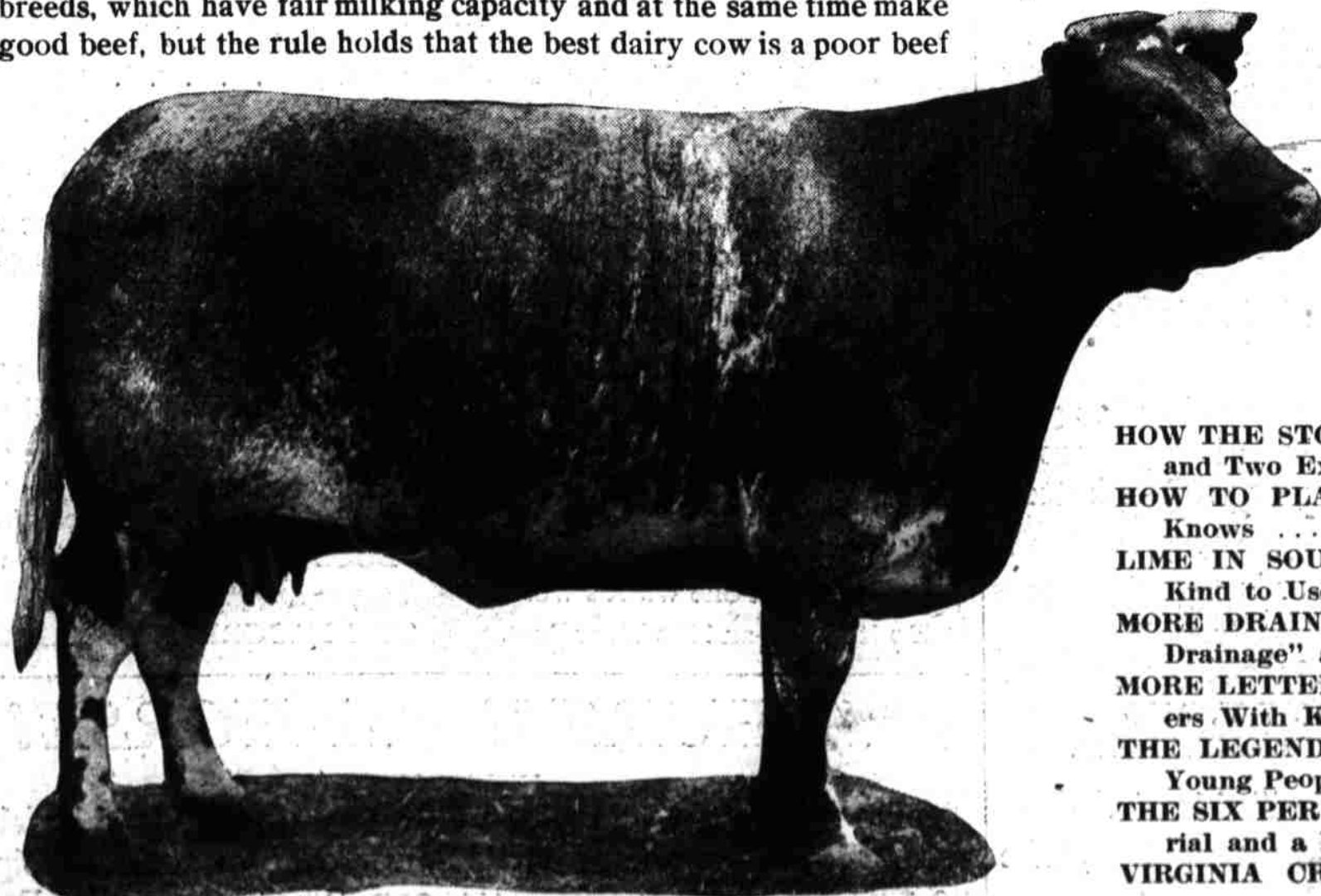


maker and that the special beef cow is not much of a dairy animal.

This is true, too, of other stock and of plants as well. It is seldom or never that the earliest variety of any crop is the most productive. Speed and the ability to draw the heaviest

loads are not combined in any breed of horses, and so on thru the whole list.

In short, the highest degree of excellence in any special line is attained only when the breeding of the plant or animal has been for that particular purpose. The farmer, therefore, should first of all decide what particular purpose he wishes his animals to fill and then select such animals as are most likely to fill this purpose. The dairyman has no business with beef or dual-purpose cattle. The man with heavy loads to pull needs draft horses. The bacon and the lard breeds of hogs have each their places. The highly specialized animal is, as a rule, the big profit-maker. The farmer who selects the animal bred for his purpose is the farmer who gets the profit.



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