It is always the gentle bull that kills the man.

Careless handling of bulls has cost our state some of her best dairymen and breeders.

You will at this point want to come back to the first question and desire to know what results you can expect by the use of a pure bred bull in your herd.

If you select a bull who has a long line of female ancestors that were better cows than those you expect to breed him to you may be almost sure that he will work a marked improvement in your herd.

Just how much no one can say, for two full brothers will often, when equally as good individually, prove very different as sires.

Mr. Cogswell, the owner of Exile, speaks of a case of this kind, and the two trotters, Patron and Patronage, was a marked case of this kind.

I can remember of hearing the critics pooh at Patronage and say he was only used because his brother was so great a trotter.

Of course, Patron had the best chance in the stud, but Patronage sired Alix, the queen of the turf.

You can ask any of our most successful dairymen in what one thing more than any other lies their success, and they will tell you: "The continued use of the best pure bred dairy sires I could find."

Therefore, in the words of the revered Hiram Smith, "Buy a bull."

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DISCUSSION.

Mr. Jacobs: Is it a question that is quite right to leave to a man's fancy, just what breed he should select? While I do not wish to start a breed row, wouldn't it be a better rule to take a breed that is better adapted to a man's business rather than depend on his fancy?

Mr. Hill: Certainly. Perhaps that was not putting it quite right, that he should leave it to his fancy, but after a very little thought, that will be his fancy. He will have decided with
study which will be the best breed for him, and that will be his fancy then, and he will look askance at the other breeds, will be looking for flaws in them.

Mr. Gurler: How would it do to feed the bull the same grain feed that you feed the milk cow?

Mr. Hill: It would do. The ration that I mentioned is what I believed to be about the best for the dairy cow as well. I would want him to have a nitrogenous ration and it seems to be an established fact that the best dairymen and breeders today have ceased feeding very much corn silage. Very many of them have impaired the usefulness of the bull by feeding him corn silage.

Mr. Jacobs: Because it is carbonaceous?

Mr. Hill: That is the reason usually given and it probably is the reason. Clover hay I think to be the very best rough feed for the bull that we have today.

Mr. Hyatt: Would roots hurt them?

Mr. Hill: No, I don’t think so.

Mr. Hyatt: I have been feeding them about fifty years.

Mr. Foster: The gentleman speaks about depending upon the record of his ancestors. Is it a good record to go by when they say a cow made so much butter in a week or a day.

Mr. Hill: Personally I have very little use for any record short of a year. I have known in my own herd so many cows that have made large weekly records and only ordinary yearly records, and, on the other hand, some that scarcely made two pounds of butter a day, at their very best, have made 500 pounds a year.

A Member: Do you think that a cow that has made a great yearly record will impair her vitality enough so that it will affect her offspring and that they will be as prepotent and strong as one that has not been crowded so hard?

Mr. Hill: I think we are in pretty deep water, at least I am. It would be hearsay more than personal experience if I attempted to answer, except in one instance. I did have in my herd a bull from a cow that had been pushed for a large yearly record, and it in no way impaired his usefulness, although his mother was carrying this bull at the time she was making the record; but I
do think that these cows that make those great records once a year, I think it might make a difference, I am just guessing at it, but I think it would in some measure impair the usefulness of her progeny, especially the ones immediately following such a test.

Mr. Foster: In purchasing a sire, how far back do you find you are able to go in the record of that sire in ordinary practice?

Mr. Hill: In the Guernsey breed, that I am particularly interested in, about three generations of females is the longest, I think, that you can at this time get the exact yearly record, the mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and not that in many cases. If you are assured of two good ones I think you will be getting about all you need ask for. On the other hand, you can learn about many of the old times cows from breeders, enough to assure you in your own mind that they were cows that were capable of making four or five hundred pounds, which is practically just as much as you would ask as dairymen.

Mr. Hyatt: I will have to differ a little from Mr. Hill in regard to the masculinity of the bull. It may differ with different breeds. I want, when I save a calf for future use as a bull, I want him to look as much like the heifer calf as possible.

Mr. Gillette: Mr. Hill says he thinks it impairs the vitality of the offspring of an animal that has been tested. I would like to call his attention to one or two in our herd. For instance, take old Joe R ——. His mother made over thirty pounds in fifteen days; back twenty years ago, her mother made some twenty-four pounds, and right along down. I don’t think it has impaired the usefulness of any one of the heifers that we ever got from old Joe.

Mr. Hill: As I said, I am merely guessing at it. Besides, I was speaking not about a weekly record, but a yearly record, in which the cow was forced to do her very best for a long time.

Mrs. Howie: If you were selecting a head for your herd, to which would you give the most attention, the pedigree of the individual, or the individual merits of the animal?

Mr. Hill: I think the pedigree; but I will say in that case I find the individuality, too, generally.

Mrs. Howie: But there are cases where the animal has been
forced and sustained a set-back. Would that be the right kind of an animal to put at the head of your herd?

Mr. Hill: No. I said I would by all means see the animal and his mother, if possible. If you cannot you must depend upon the pedigree and the reliability of the breeder.

Mrs. Howie: Suppose you had a cow that made a large record that had a poor conformation in her udder? Would you consider her offspring worthy to be at the head of a fine herd.

Mr. Hill: I tried to make a distinction in my paper between the bull that the dairyman might need and the bull the breeder would want. I am quite a believer, with Professor Haecker of Minnesota, that too much attention is paid to the shape of the udder. When it comes to the breeder’s standpoint I want a good shaped udder on the mother of the bull I am to use, as much as to have a large record; I will have it. But in the case of the dairyman I don’t think it is so essential.

Mr. Cobb: I have bred Jerseys for a good many years, but I never have felt that I was competent to take a record and read it, one sent to me through the mails, and order a calf C. O. D. In the last four years I have bought two heads of herds, and in buying those I studied eight of his get. I want to have the herd and look over that herd, then after looking at them all and studying the bull, finally I come back to the house and look at the pedigree. I have done that in two instances and I have met with entire success. In regard to exercise, we have used the tread power for some years. It so happened that we had two of the same aged animals at the same time, and one morning the boys thought it would be a good plan to put the two in the tread power and the bulls ran off with the tread power and I haven’t seen it since. We use a sweep which is a good thing. We turn out a few calves to attract his attention and he gets splendid exercise.

Mr. Hill: I think it is a disgrace that so many of the best proven sires should go to the shambles, for what reason I don’t know, unless people get afraid of them. I saw once a bull of seven months old that would put a man to bed for six weeks. The old bull is no more vicious than the young one, and even if he is vicious, you can put him in the tread power and work it out
of him. Before I knew as much about that as I do now, we had a bull that became cross at two years of age, and it was impossible for us to handle him, and not knowing about working him, we sold him to a man who said he didn’t care how cross he was, and we had to put a rope around his neck and choke him once in a while in order to get him to the station. The man said afterwards that he thought he knew what a cross bull was before, but it took six men and a team of horses to get him home. He drew him right up into the tread power and commenced working it, and he has continued to work him, and he said in two months he was as quiet as anything he had. I believe you can work it out of any of them, so they will be glad to keep still. You can have a much better bull by buying an old bull every time.

Mr. Foster: Isn’t that way of judging responsible to a great degree for the poor stock we have at present? We have been breeding stock, for instance, for dairy purposes more or less ever since old Noah came out of the ark with the original pair. We have all heard about the dairy cow of Jefferson county, where there are more cows than people, and the average cow produces two hundred pounds of butter a year. Is not this difference of things largely due to breeding from animals judged at their individual merit—upon their shape, in other words?

Mr. Hill: Yes, I think so. Perhaps they haven’t even done that much; they have taken the first thing that was at hand, regardless of breeding, or individuality, or anything.

Mr. Goodrich: I heard something said about Jefferson county and I can’t keep still any longer. It was 240 pounds of butter per cow that the cows of Jefferson county produced when we made a close investigation of the subject, and we are not going back to 200 pounds per cow, if we know it.

Mr. Foster: I must have seen the report that was printed before you investigated them so carefully.

Mr. Goodrich: It was before we had improved the cows so much.

Mrs. Howie: Mr. Goodrich means before he had improved the dairymen rather than the cows. Mr. Hill, you say that it would not pay for a dairymen to lay stress on the udder or the conformation. What would be your idea of the dairymen who
really wished to improve the character of his herd? Should he send to the breeder and ask for the cull of the breed? Would it be policy for a first-class breeder to send out a cull from his herd even to a dairyman’s herd?

Mr. Hill: Certainly not. I say only that if a cow has a record of 500 pounds of butter a year, and a dairyman could get one of her sons with that individuality less marked I would use it in preference to the son of a cow that would make 350 pounds of butter with a good shaped udder.

Mrs. Howie: You would want him strong and with constitution and vigor.

Mr. Hill: Yes, I now am just referring to the udder.

Mr. Favid: I was out buying cows once, and I saw a good looking cow that had a real bad-shaped udder, and I didn’t buy her. I went around, but I didn’t find things as I wanted, and I went back and got that cow. Well, the result was I attended the North-Western Dairymen’s Association twenty-three years ago this winter, and I reported that I had a cow that I had milked nine thousand pounds of milk from in ten months, without any special feeding. She had a little grain, but she first came in and went out onto grass and ran to grass until she dried off, and she gave nine thousand pounds of milk. They didn’t believe me in that convention; they told me to my face they didn’t believe me, but it was a fact just he same. She was a cow with a real bad-shaped udder, but she proved a good one.

Mr. Hill: A breeder likes to get a sire from a cow that has a good-shaped udder and a large one if he can have it, but some of the very best records are from cows with bad-shaped udders. Take the Jersey cow Eurota, that had a very bad-shaped udder, and still one of her sons sold for $12,000, and she made over 700 pounds of butter in a year.

Mr. Tripp: I want to ask a question that I think will interest many of the farmers in Fond du Lac county, and that is, will it pay the ordinary dairyman of this county, or any other, to purchase and use a thoroughbred Durham bull—not raising the heifer calves?

Mr. Hill: I believe it is a foolish practice. I know it is being carried on, but it is foolish from the fact that you are
not going to raise the heifers. I would not use a beef sire on my
cows, I wouldn't advise any such practice.

Mr. Burchard: I have kept still almost two days. Here is
a case cited by the gentleman and a case put so squarely by Mr.
Hill and they are drawing in opposite directions. Now, it is
quite a possible thing for a man who wants to raise veal male
calves, and dairy female calves, in almost any community in
Wisconsin to get the services of both kinds of bulls, and for the
very best cows that he has, if he is a wise dairymen, he will use a
dairy sire, irrespective of what the progeny may be, in the hope
that his cows will occasionally drop him heifer calves that will
be worth ten or twenty times as much as he can get for any veal
calves he can raise on his farm. We are running these things
too much in certain grooves. We think we have only a single
track railroad in this business, and it is not true; there are
three or four tracks we can use, and I want to enter my protest,
although I may be working against my own interests a little,
as to the distinction which Mr. Hill makes between the breeder
and the dairymen. These breeders are a coterie among them-
selves and they have lots of fads. They think if an animal is
not just up in color or horns or something, so it can be sold for
$500 to some other foolish man, that it is not a typical animal
and therefore it is not worth having. I don't expect to convert
them, but all the same I want to enter my protest every time I
hear people talking about this distinction. "Handsome is as
handsome does," and the sooner the earnest breeders of the coun-
try come to admit that proposition, the better it will be for the
country. The gentleman said something about Jefferson county.
Now, the trouble in Jefferson county is the same as in Fond du
Lac county. There are herds in Jefferson county where every
cow will show a profit of ten, fifteen or twenty dollars a year,
and there are some foolish people down there who are content to
keep herds right along without knowing what they do, and
they are not bringing them in three or four or five dollars a
year, oftentimes do not even pay for the feed they consume at
market prices, and that is the reason this Dairymen's Association
has had these cow censuses taken, to try to bring home to the at-
tention of dairymen the importance of knowing what their cows
are doing. You don't need to have Mr. Goodrich or anybody else tell you about this. It is the easiest thing in the world for you to examine your herds for yourselves. There is no man so poor, there is no man so ignorant—if you want to put it that way—but what he can keep a record of each individual cow in his herd, and nine times out of ten, if he will keep that record for a year, he will find he will be saving money to sell off two, three, four or five cows from his herd, and make more money than to keep the whole number. These people that are here today do not need the starter that the State of Illinois is giving. I am giving it to you.

A Member: Where I live, quite a majority of the cows are of Jersey breed, and only a few days ago one of the veterinarians there told me that the most of his practice was from the result of this very practice which the gentleman over in that part of the house mentions, using a beef sire on small cows, it was producing a great deal of trouble among the herds. It seems to me that for a dollar and a half or two dollars extra on the price of the calf, it doesn't hardly pay to take so much risk. I think the sooner a man finds out whether he wants milk or beef, the better it will be for him.

ADDRESS.

Euclid N. Cobb, Monmouth, Ill. (Buff Jersey.)

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—My imagination goes back to Milwaukee county, in 1853. Down in an old cabin there, they had a great wedding party, and when the bride and groom came from church and took their seats at the table, there was a fine wedding cake on that table, and it was decorated with a long corn cob hanging on one side of the cake. On the other side was a rather short, thick-set one, and over on one edge of the cake there was another. In 1855, down in the same county, there was born in Greenfield township, in Milwaukee county, myself, and