

FRIESIAN MILKING-CATTLE.

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IT is difficult to one who has visited the home of the Friesian cattle, and has studied the breed in its native habitat, to understand why the owners of the famous black-and-whites in this country and their breed association should describe these cattle as Holstein-Friesians. Apparently without due consideration we have followed the lead of American breeders in this respect. While the Americans may have imported from Holstein—now a province of Germany but formerly a portion of Denmark—the names given in American pedigrees lead one to believe that the foundation cattle were really imported from Friesland, the northern portion of Holland, in the vicinity of the Zuyder Zee. For instance, we have Colantha, Johanna, Pietertje, and other Dutch names too numerous to mention here. The English Holstein Cattle Association probably did import their cattle from Holstein, an impression borne out by the absence of pedigrees in their herd-book, which in no case gives any ancestry beyond the dam and sire; whereas if the stock had been purchased in Friesland they would have been able to furnish extended pedigrees, for the Frieslanders are most careful in preserving the pedigrees of their cattle. Our nomenclature is the more surprising when it is remembered that the foundation animals of the oldest herd of black-and-whites in New Zealand were imported from the vicinity of Leeuwarden, North Friesland. It is true that since then many American animals have been imported, but at the time of the inception of the New Zealand Holstein-Friesian Association it is fairly safe to say that the Grigg cattle predominated in New Zealand; and even now the fine herd at Weraroa Experimental Farm possesses many of the large, roomy, beautiful types of the original Grigg cattle. Indeed, from my personal observations in Friesland, the type of Domino is the true type of the Frieslander of the present day. In saying this I have no desire to depreciate American importations as a whole; still, there have been importations from America that would have been improved if, in addition to milking characteristics and milking records, they had demonstrated better care on the breeder's part in obtaining a larger type of cow. With proper care we certainly can attain in time the desired type with our present stock. Of course, the simplest way to this end would be the importation of stock from Friesland. Unfortunately, at the present day the necessary quarantine restrictions prevent this. It