

is sincerely to be hoped, however, that it will be possible in the near future to secure the stock we so much desire.

It is not generally known in this part of the world that the Friesian breed has a great antiquity. It possesses a history dating well back two thousand years, and is directly descended from the cattle owned by the Friesians and Batavians, the earliest record of which is dated three hundred years before Christ, the Roman Tacitus mentioning the cattle of the Friesians. Since that time the stock has been kept absolutely pure. Living up to the present day under the same roof as that of the homestead, the cattle are most docile. It is no uncommon sight to see them being quietly milked in the open, and to see them removed from one pasture to another by means of small boats. Large open drains separate the fields, and the cattle are never known to cross on their own account. It is the manner in which they have been handled for two thousand years that has produced the docile and valuable animal of the present day. The good qualities of the breed have been developed in many distant parts of the world to which they have been exported. It is evident, however, that their best characteristics are maintained to a higher degree in the country of their origin. The conditions under which the cattle are there bred warrant this assertion. Grazing as they do on the richest low-lying pastures of the world, they develop large frames and a capacity for heavy milk-production, while their ancient lineage enables them to transmit their good qualities to their offspring. Their prepotency is great—so great, indeed, that cross-breeds exhibit the black and white colour for generations.

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In a class of seven in a dairy-cattle-judging competition at the recent Horowhenua Show, cadets from the Weraroa Experimental Farm occupied the first, second, and third positions.

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During the last six months of 1912 the British Government spent in compensation in consequence of foot-and-mouth disease in England and Wales a sum approximating £52,000.

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Mr. J. T. Shepherd, Manager of the Waerenga Experimental Farm, who possesses the power of water-divination, has recently investigated Central Otago country in this connection. He has found that over the greater part of Central Otago there are strong indications in many localities of the presence of underground water. In more than one place huge volumes of subterranean water were located.