

## NEW ZEALAND MILKING SHORTHORNS



Mr. R. Peach's Duchess of Clydesdale 2nd, champion at the Royal Show, Christchurch, 1927, C.O.R. 10,605lb. milk, 426lb. fat.

cows at a reasonable fee" (15). These cattle were quickly got rid of, 60 heifers grazing at Waerenga were sent to the Rangiriri sale and sold as grades, and the rest of the herd were fattened and sold as beef.

Although the Ruakura Coates' Herd Book herd was dispersed, it had left its mark on the dairy herds of the Waikato. Many farmers had sent some of their best cows to Ruakura for service and their bull calves had gone into general circulation as dairy bulls. Mr. A. W. Green, who followed Mr. McConnell as manager, made it his business to buy back some of the best of the females left in farmers' herds by the Ruakura bulls. Ten cows and 10 heifers were bought back from Mr. T. C. Blackett, Te Kowhai, and several from Mr. J. McConaughy, Otahuhu, and Mr. M. Mulcahey, Eureka. These were registered as foundation cows in the newly formed New Zealand Milking Shorthorn Association's Herd Book. Through the years some of the imported bulls had been sold cheaply, when they became old and sluggish, to local farmers and had left many good daughters. One of these, entered as a foundation cow in the new herd book as Maniaroa Princess and tested under C.O.R. by Ranstead Brothers, Matangi, gave 15,950lb. of milk, 700lb. fat, and for some years held the New Zealand mature-cow record.

### First Annual Sale

In April, 1919, the whole of the pedigree Darbalara Milking Shorthorn herd at the Weraroa Experimental Farm was transferred to Ruakura; many of these cattle were imported and made a valuable addition to the Ruakura herd. By 1920, when the first Ruakura annual sale was held, Mr. Green had become president of the New Zealand Milking Shorthorn Association and the Ruakura herd of Milking Shorthorns was the most important in New Zealand. In 1925, in the introduction to the catalogue of the sixth annual sale, it was stated that:—

It is worthy of note that six out of seven class-leaders for Milking Shorthorns under Semi-Official test in the Dominion are by Ruakura bred bulls.

These record breakers were bred by Ranstead Brothers, Matangi, and were by two bulls bred at Ruakura by Darbalara sires out of locally bred non-pedigree dams. The first of these, Dominion Esau of Ruakura, was then the leading C.O.R. bull of the breed, for besides Matangi Quality 4th's wonderful yield as a 4-year-old of 22,010lb. milk, 978lb. fat, his daughters in the Matangi herd had won 14 1st class certificates of record, averaging 533lb. fat. They had competed in 5 classes out of 7 under C.O.R. and had won 5 class leaderships. The best six records of Esau's daughters in the Matangi herd averaged 712lb. fat. The second bull was Dominion Glaxo of Ruakura, whose daughters had won 7 1st class certificates of record, the 4 best averaging equal to 662lb. fat at maturity. Two of these daughters had won class leaderships, one in Ranstead Brothers' herd and one in the herd of the Hon. Mrs. Blythe, Auckland.

15. New Zealand Department of Agriculture (1901): Ninth Annual Report.

Mr. Green left the Ruakura Farm after the sixth sale and became the organising secretary of the New Zealand Milking Shorthorn Association, a position that he held with great success for 20 years. After he left Ruakura competition from other breeders became stronger and it became evident that Ruakura would have to do more testing to maintain the position previously held in the breed. In a later sale catalogue it was stated that:—

For some years previous to 1926-27 the only records kept of cows at Ruakura were farm records. These were made under disadvantageous conditions, in that the whole herd was used for instructional purposes and the milkers were changed weekly. In order that the cows might have a chance to show their capabilities at the bucket it was decided to put a number each year under C.O.R. test, with the object of having ultimately C.O.R. records for all females in the herd. These cows are milked by one man and are kept in a herd by themselves, but are still milked twice daily by machine and this fact should not be lost sight of when perusing the records below. During the five seasons in which cows have been tested the following records have been established:—

	lb. milk	lb. fat	No. of days	Age
Dominion Concelt ..	16,255	727	365	8 yrs. 336 days
Dominion Alsatian ..	11,894	534	343	5 yrs. 336 days
Dominion Prunus ..	13,280	533	365	3 yrs. 364 days
Dominion Etta ..	13,766	526	365	3 yrs. 345 days
Dominion Althea ..	11,674	537	349	2 yrs. 360 days
Dominion Demure ..	10,401	430	365	1 yr. 200 days

In all, under C.O.R. test, twice-a-day machine milked, average age 4 years, the average yield of 33 cows was 434lb. fat in 342 days.

During the depression the demand for pedigree stock fell off, and the fourteenth and last Ruakura sale was held in 1933. The herd was carried on for some years on a reduced scale, gradually diminishing, until when Ruakura changed over from a farm of instruction to an animal research station the Shorthorn herd was dropped altogether.

### Twenty-year Break

Owing to the New Zealand Government's embargo there were no further importations of Illawarra cattle for more than 20 years, until in 1937 Messrs. G. D. Hall and Son, Kio Kio, imported a bull, Martha Vale Cloister, and later a second bull, Martha Vale Ajax, together with 4 in-calf heifers. These were bred by Messrs. J. W. Treloggan and Sons, Martha Vale, St. Helens, Tasmania, who were the leading Illawarra breeders in Tasmania. Their team of 7 cows entered for the 1937-38 Lactation Herd Test Competition of the Australian Illawarra Shorthorn Society won the Tasmanian branch's prize offered to members securing the highest yield of butterfat in 273 days during the period of the competition. The average for the 7 cows, which put up their records off natural pastures only, was 453lb. fat.

### Influence of Illawarras

The early importations of Australian Illawarra Shorthorns may be summarised as follows:—

	Bulls	Cows
New Zealand Government ..	6	10
Fisher .. .. .	1	4
Wright .. .. .	2	2
Salway .. .. .	1	3
Dilworth Trust .. .. .	2	7
	12	26

These relatively small numbers of imported Illawarras had a most important bearing on the development of the New Zealand Milking Shorthorn breed. The dispersal sales of Wright and the Dilworth School and the bulls bred and sold by the State farms and Fisher spread the blood all over New Zealand. Most of the breeders, in the North Island especially, thus cut themselves off from the Coates' Herd Book.