Miscellaneous Bulletin Mo. 54

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research

A FURTHER SURVEY OF SOME IMPOR-TANT BREEDS OF CATTLE AND BUFFALOES IN INDIA

REFERENCE



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BY

F. WARE

C.I.E., F.R.C.V.S., F.N.I., I.V.S.

Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India

REFERENCE.





CONTENTS

											PAGE
									•		
9—							•	•	•	•	•
											9
							•	•	•	•	Ĭ.
				,			_		•	•	5
٠							_	-		•	A
							-			•	7
							-	_	•	•	8
					_		•	•	•	•	a
	·		·				•	•	•	•	10
	·		·	·	·	Ī	•	•	•	•	
	•	·	Ċ	•	Ţ	·	•	•	•	•	11
	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	12
•	•	•	•	-		_	•	•	•	٠	13
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	14
:	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	15

INTRODUCTION

IN Miscellaneous Bulletin No. 17 of this Council Col. Sir Arthur Olver, the then Animal Husbandry Expert to the Council published a very valuable contribution to our knowledge regarding the best-known breeds of cattle and buffaloes in India, and further photographs of prize-winners at the All-India Cattle Show of these same breeds have been reproduced in this Council's Miscellaneous Bulletins No. 24 and No. 46.

As indicated by the title, these Bulletins did not pretend to exhaust the recognized breeds of cattle and buffaloes in India and the present publication is an

attempt to bring the series up-to-date.

In undertaking this further work one naturally lays oneself open to criticism in connection with what may be called 'border-line' breeds, i.e. animals in regard to which opinion is divided as to whether they constitute a separate breed or are merely a geographical type or a variety or strain of some recognized breed, and this, of course, will always be the case while a new breed is in process of formation. We have examples of this in the Dajjal strain of the Bhagnari, the Karnal variety of the Tharparkar, and some breeders still assert that Kundhi, Nili and Ravi buffaloes are merely geographical types of the Murrah breed.

The point, therefore, is not one about which hard and fast rules can be laid down and to some extent the division between a breed and a variety or type must remain a matter of opinion. The principle which has been followed in this work has been to select for inclusion as breeds those specimens which are found in large numbers spread over a considerable area, which possess definite characteristics differing from those of other recognized breeds, and are said to have the power of transmitting those characteristics, i.e. of being able to breed true to type, over successive generations.

The future will show to what extent the present list of recognized breeds is correct. In due course it may become necessary to elevate further varieties and include them as distinct breeds, or on the other hand to remove from the list of recognized breeds certain of those now included. It is hoped that this publication will result in more interest being taken in this subject, and it is felt that if it encourages those concerned with any doubtful breeds to develop them up to the standard of a recognized breed, it will have done something towards the expansion on sound lines of cattle breeding in India.

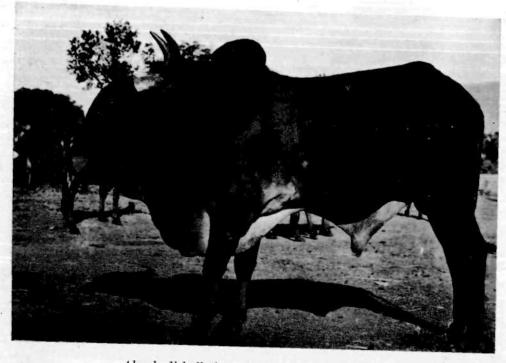
In the compilation of this bulletin much useful help has been received from the following provincial officers:—

- 1. Mr R. W. Littlewood (Madras).
- 2. Mr E. J. Bruen (Bombay).
- 3. Mr T. H. Naqvi (United Provinces).

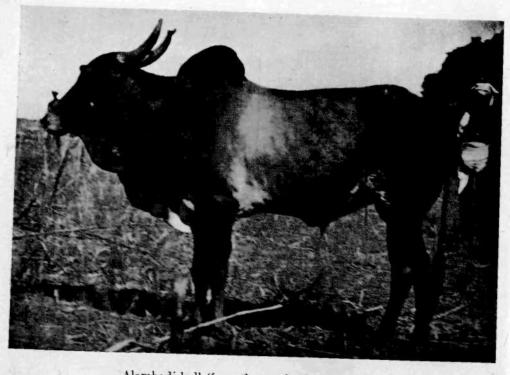
- 4. Mr Sultan Singh (United Provinces).
- 5. Khan Sahib A. M. Ulvi (Sind).
- 6. Mr S. M. Sarwar (N. W. F. P.).
- 7. Capt. U. W. F. Walker (Punjab).
- 8. Mr P. N. Nanda (Punjab).
- 9. Mr F. J. Gossip (Bengal).
- 10. Mr M. I. Malik (Bihar).

A special word of praise is also due to Mr K. P. R. Karhta of the Animal Husbandry Bureau of the Council, who has spent much time and thought on the collection and collation of the material.

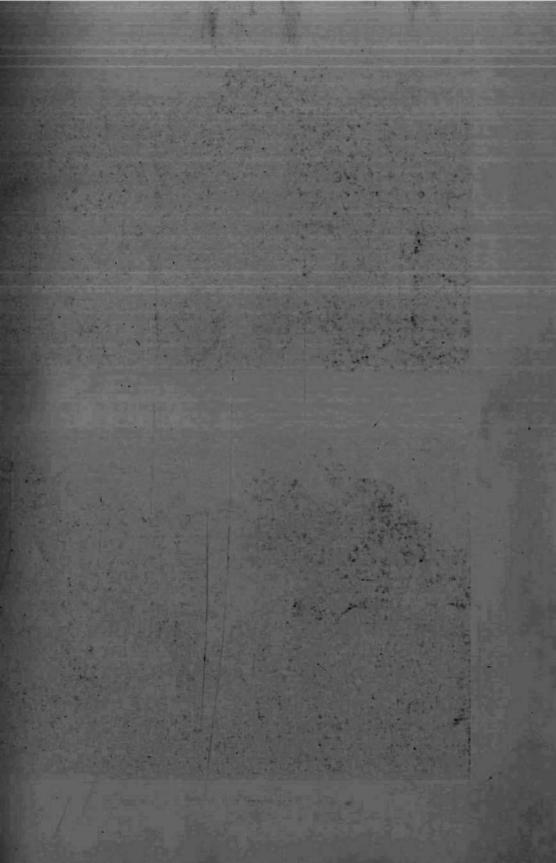


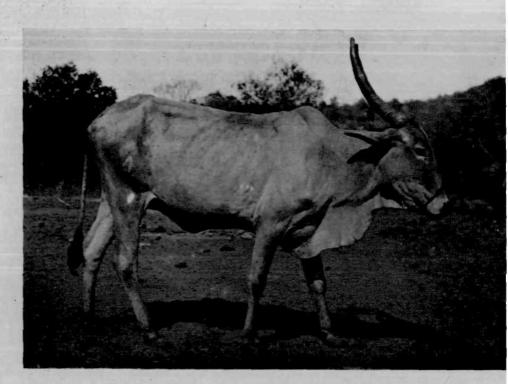


Alambadi bull (from the south of the tract)



Alambadi bull (from the north of the tract)





Alambadi cow



Alambadi bullocks

DESCRIPTION OF BREEDS

ALAMBADI CATTLE

THESE cattle are bred in the hilly tracts of north Salem and north Coimbatore districts of the Madras Province adjoining the Mysore State and are reared mostly on forest grazing. It is doubtful whether these animals should be considered as representing a pure breed or an offshoot of the Hallikar breed of Mysore. The male stock are generally sold as yearlings at big fairs to ryots who rear and sell them as work cattle. They are very active and hardy animals and can live on scanty rations. They are in good demand for cart and mhote work and should be regarded

as purely a draught breed. The cows are poor milkers.

The chief characteristics are:—The dark grey or black colouration of the bull and the grey and broken colours of the cows, the long narrow head with prominent bulging forehead and the long sweeping horns which grow backwards and upwards, a fairly deep body with well-arched ribs, a well-developed hump and broad and thick dewlap, a tail of medium length and tapering to a black switch. In the south of the tract, the bulls are of a loose build, with a large dewlap extending to the sheath. The sheath is rather pendulous and the hindquarters drooping. In the north, the bulls are more compact and active-looking and bear a closer resemblance to the Hallikar. They have a smaller dewlap, and the sheath is not so pendulous.

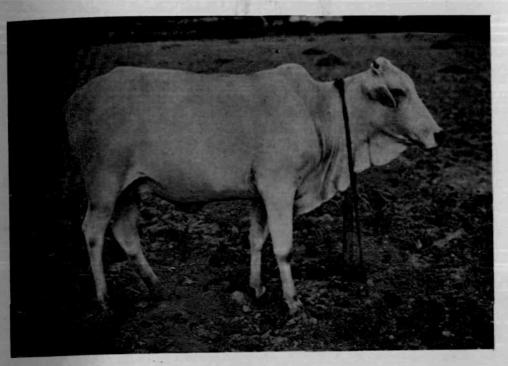
BACHAUR CATTLE

THE home of these cattle is in Bachaur and Koilpur parganas of Sitamarhi district in Bihar. The goalas own large herds of cows which graze in the adjoining forests during the day and the young stock thrive well under these condition Selected bulls are used for breeding purposes in these herds.

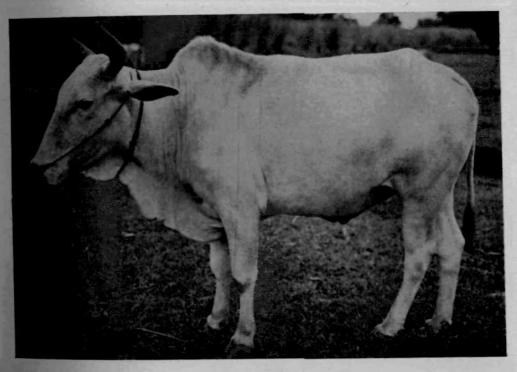
This is essentially a draught breed. The bullocks are good work animals, but

the milk yield is poor, the average daily yield being only 2 to 4 lb. per day.

The prevailing colour is grey. The animals are compact with straight back, well-rounded barrel, short neck and muscular shoulders. The forehead is broad, with prominent eyes and large and drooping ears. The hocks are strong and well shaped and the tail is short and thick, and in good specimens does not reach the hock. The height of a bull behind the hump is 58 in. to 62 in. and the girth 68 in. to 72 in.

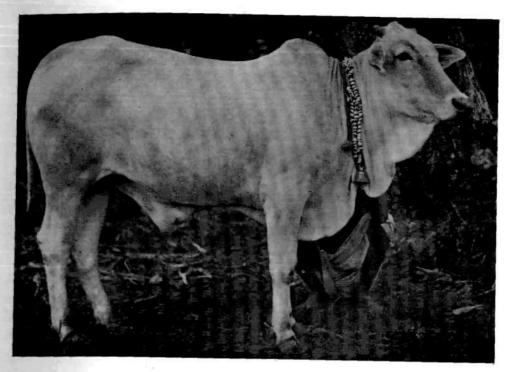


Bachaur cow



Bachaur bullock





Young Bachaur bull



Bargur bull



Bargur cow





A group of Bargur cattle

BARGUR CATTLE

"HESE cattle are bred extensively in the Bargur hills in Coimbatore district of the Madras Province.

They are of the Mysore type of cattle, but are smaller and more compact, and the forehead is not so prominent as in other Mysore breeds. They are very fiery and restive and difficult to train. For spirit, power of endurance and speed in trotting they are said to be unsurpassed.

The chief colours are red and white, red with white spots, white with red spots

and sometimes light grey. The cows are very poor milkers.

The chief points to note are :—A long well-shaped head tapering towards the muzzle, the forehead slightly prominent, horns growing backwards and upwards, a moderate-sized hump, compact body with well-arched ribs, a well-marked but fine dewlap, fairly tight sheath and a rather short tail.

DANGI CATTLE

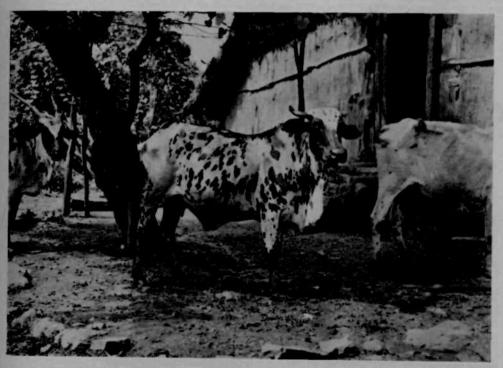
THE home of this breed is a small area comprising part of Ahmadnagar and Nasik districts in Bombay Province and the States of Bansda, Dharampur, Jowhar and Dangs. It is known to do well in the heavy rainfall tracts of western India. The cattle are extremely hardy, stand up well to the heavy rainfall of the Western Ghats, and are not affected by working continuously in rice fields. They subsist mostly on grazing.

The Dangi is a medium-slow draught animal varying in size from 45 to 50 inches behind the hump with a girth measurement of 58 to 60 inches. The cow is a smaller animal and a poor milker, but the male is known for its excellent working qualities.

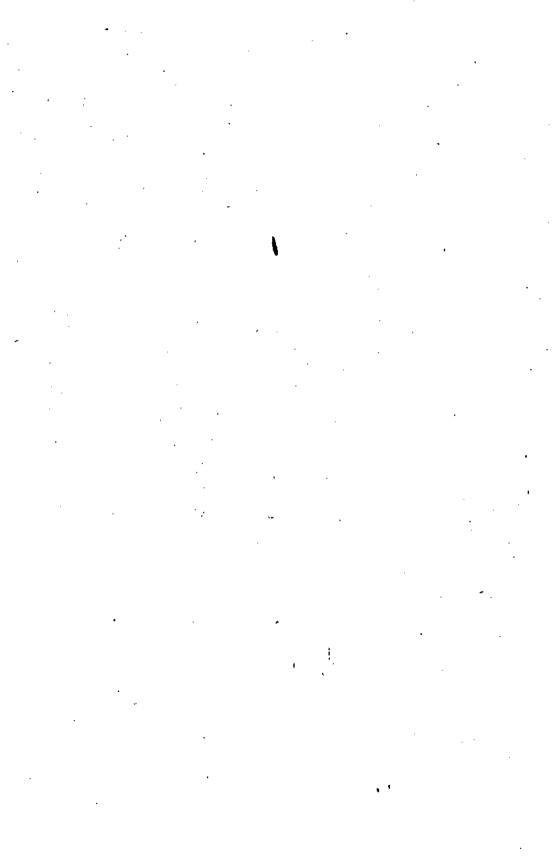
The colours are red and white, and black and white, and the skin contains an excessive amount of oil which protects it from rain. The head and horns show considerable variation. The head is usually small with a slightly protruding forehead with a large muzzle. Horns are of a nondescript type and are generally short and thick. Ears are small. The animals have powerful hind and forequarters, with a short back well coupled up and standing on short stout legs. The hoof is exceptionally hardy, black and flint-like.

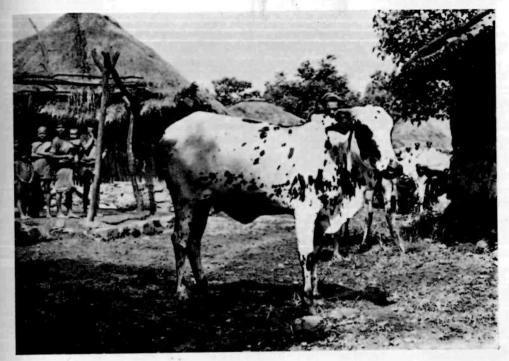


Dangi bulls

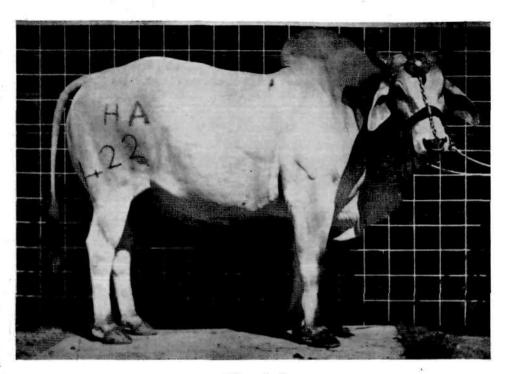


Dangi cow

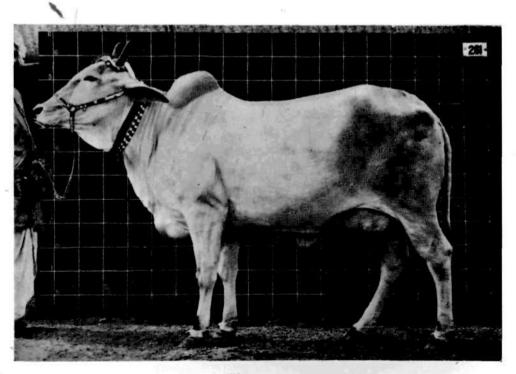




Dangi heifer

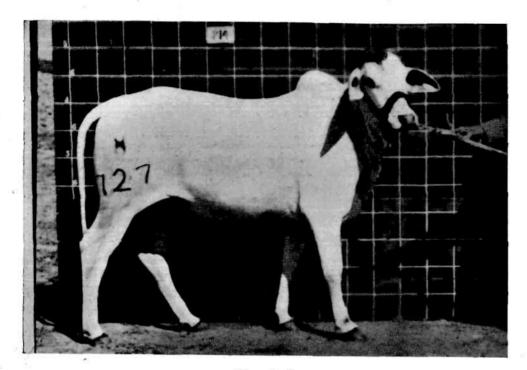


Hissar bull



Hissar cow





Hissar heifer

HISSAR CATTLE

THE home of this breed is round about Hansi in Hissar district and it is also found extensively in the canal-irrigated districts of the central Punjab. The Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, which has been in existence for over a hundred years, has contributed considerably to the evolution and development of this breed. Hundreds of pedigree bulls are issued annually from this farm.

The animals of this breed are very hardy and are noted for their stamina, and for their ability to thrive on scanty food. These qualities of the breed have made it very popular in other parts of India where it is extensively used in pure form or

for grading up and improving inferior local cattle.

The colour varies from white to silver grey and dark grey in the bull. In typical animals the forehead is markedly broad and flat or even slightly concave. The face generally is broader and the ears larger and more pendulous than in the Hariana breed. The skin above the orbits is wrinkled and there is a well-marked depression below the frontal bones. The horns are of medium size and thickness and curve upwards in the form of an arc. The dewlap is small, chest broad, barrel long and the sheath tight. The hindquarters are sloping, the tail is short and thin and ends in a black switch. The females of this breed are moderate milkers.

KENWARIYA (KENKATHA) CATTLE

THIS is a well-known breed of Bundelkhand and is found along the Ken river in Banda district of the United Provinces. Cattle of Kenwariya type are also bred in the territory of Panna, Bijaigarh, Charkhari and Ajaigarh States of Central India, in the United Provinces. These animals are very popular for light draught on the road and for cultivation.

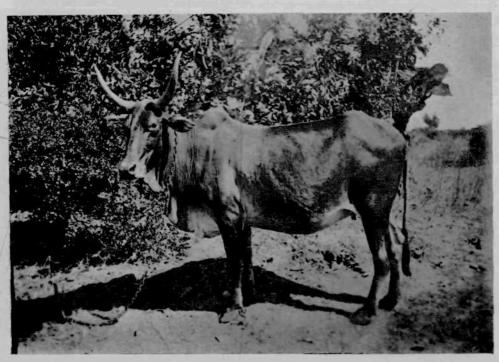
They are small, sturdy and fairly powerful animals, well suited to the work of the tract. The cows are poor milkers. The colour varies from grey on the barrel to

a dark grey or rufous colour on the rest of the body.

The chief characteristics of the breed are:—A short, deep, compact body, straight back and drooping quarters, powerful short limbs and good hard feet, a medium sheath with black tip and dewlap of moderate size, short broad head with dished forehead, strong pointed horns which emerge from the outer angles of the poll in a markedly forward direction to terminate in a sharp point, sharp pointed ears and a tail of medium length with black switch reaching below the hock.



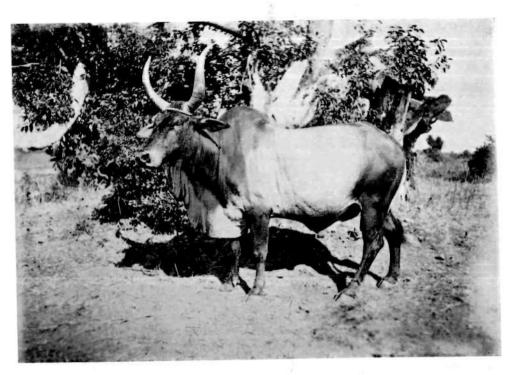
Kenwariya bull



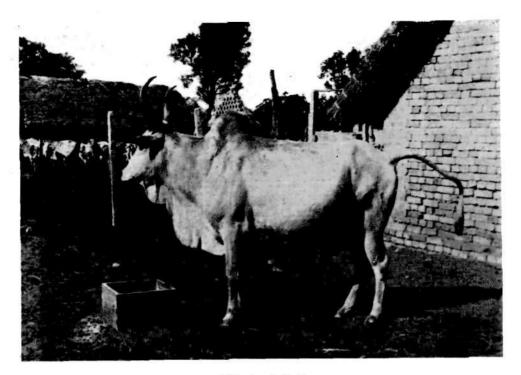
Kenwariya cow

[PLATE 11

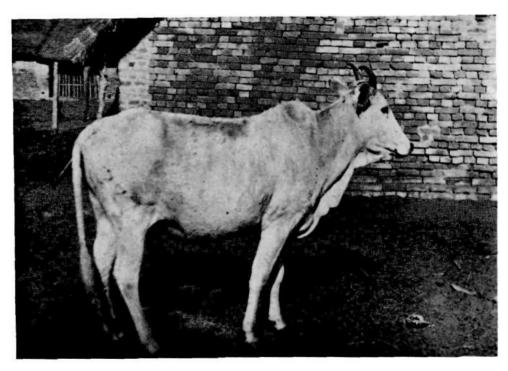
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Kenwariya bullock



Kherigarh bull



Kherigarh cow

PLATE 13]

KHERIGARH CATTLE

THIS breed is found in Kherigarh pargana of Kheri district in the United Provinces.

These cattle are generally white with a small narrow face and thin upstanding horns measuring about 12 in. to 18 in. in the bulls but smaller in cows. They have bright eyes, small active ears, short neck and a well-developed hump in the male. The barrel is well ribbed up and the sheath moderately tight. The tail is long, ending in a white switch.

They are very active cattle and thrive on free grazing. The bullocks are good for light draught and trotting purposes, but the cows are poor milkers. They are

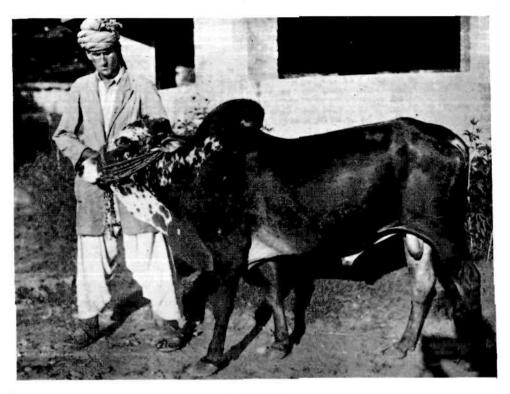
well suited to the Tarai tract.

LOHANI CATTLE

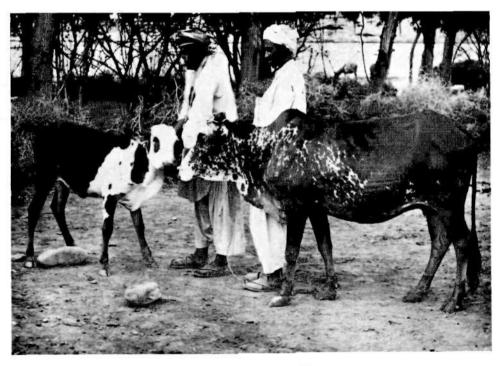
'HE home of these cattle is the Loralai Agency of Baluchistan and the northern districts of the North-West Frontier Province. They are also found fairly widely distributed in the tribal areas where they are known as Acchai cattle. This breed has not been much studied, but preliminary observations show that it has potentialities for milk production and possesses at the same time good draught qualities for hilly tracts.

The Lohani is a small animal similar to the hill cattle of India, the mature animal being 40 in. to 44 in. in height. It has a small head with flat or slightly convex face. Horns and ears are short, body is well rounded and moderately long and legs are short with good bone. The characteristic colour is red with white patches although an entire red colour is not uncommon.

The bullocks are excellent workers in the plough and as pack animals, especially in hilly or arid tracts. They have a hard constitution which enables them to stand extremes of climate. Cows of this breed are said to yield up to 10 lb. of milk a day.



Lohani bull



Lohani cow and calf





Lohani bullocks



Ponwar bull



Ponwar cow

PLATE 16]

PONWAR CATTLE

THESE cattle are found in Parampore tehsil of Pilibhit district as well as in the north-western part of Kheri district in the United Provinces.

Pure-bred animals possess a small narrow face, small active ears, big bright eyes, long upstanding horns measuring 12 in. to 18 in. They are generally black and white in colour. The barrel is moderately long, while the sheath is short and tight. Hump is well developed in bulls, but it is small in cows. The tail is long and tapering with a white switch.

The average height of a bull is about 50 in., while that of a cow is about 45 in. A bull weighs about 700 to 800 lb., while the average weight of a cow is about 650 lb. The cattle of this breed are active and often furious, and like free grazing. They reach maturity after five years. The bullocks are good for draught purposes. The cows are poor milkers.

SIRI CATTLE

THESE animals are to be found in the Darjeeling hill tracts and in Sikkim and Bhutan. The latter country is supposed to be their real home and it is from this State that the best specimens are brought into Darjeeling district.

The colours most frequently seen in the Darjeeling hills are black and white and red and white. The animal carries a thick coat all the year round and this offers considerable protection against the severe cold and heavy rains met with in the home

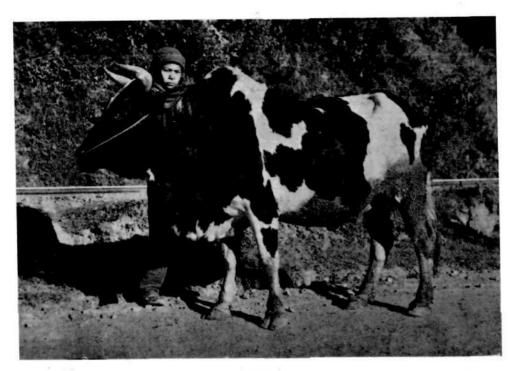
of the breed.

The general form of the Siri is massive, bulls standing about 54 in. behind the hump while the cows measure about 48 in. at the same place. The head is small, square cut and well set on. The forehead is wide and flat and when viewed from the side presents no convexity. The horns are sharp and directed forward and slightly upwards, while the ears are relatively small. The hump is placed well forward and is usually covered at the crown with a tuft of long, coarse hair. The dewlap is not so prominent as in some of the plains breeds and the sheath in the male is tight. Strong legs and feet are a characteristic of this breed.

Bullocks of the Siri breed are eagerly sought after for cart purposes owing to their size and great strength, and they will pull loads of 10 to 12 maunds over bad

and mountainous roads with great ease.

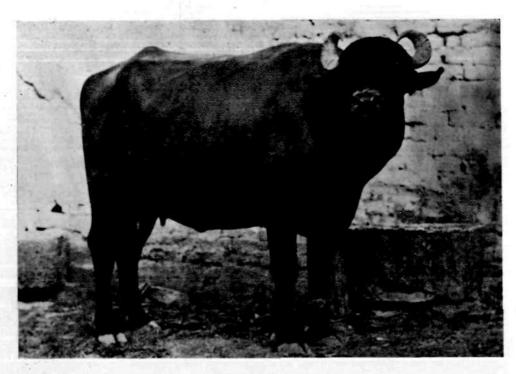
The cows of this breed have a good udder and give, when stall-fed, up to six seers of milk daily with a butter-fat content from 5 per cent to 6 per cent. Cows under average conditions yield from 1 to 2 seers of milk.



Siri bull



Siri cow



Kundhi buffalo cow



Herd of Kundhi buffaloes wallowing in the Indus

KUNDHI BUFFALO

THESE are large animals with a live-weight varying from 1,000 to 1,200 lb. inhabiting the forest tracts along the river Indus and in the rice-growing regions in north Simi. This animal strongly resembles the Murrah breed, of which it appears to be an offshoot.

The colour is usually jet black although light brown animals are also found. The forehead is slightly prominent, face hollow, eyes small and active. The horns are thick at the base inclined backward and upwards ending in a moderately tight coil, thus resembling a fish-hook (kundhi), from which the breed takes its name.

The cows are good milkers with an average yield of 10 seers per diem, but first

class animals are reported to give as much as 20 seers daily.

NILI BUFFALO

THESE buffaloes are found in the valley of the river Sutlej, particularly in the Pakpattan tehsil of Montgomery district, and also in the Ferozepore district of the Punjab. The breed derives its name from the supposedly blue (nili) waters of the Sutlej river.

This is acknowledged to be one of the best breeds of buffaloes in India, and large numbers of them are exported for milk production to distant cities like Calcutta and

Bombay. The average milk yield is 3,500 lb. in 250 days.

The Nili buffalo has a medium-sized deep frame with an elongated head bulging at the top, depressed between the eyes and ending in a fine muzzle. The nasal bone is prominent; horns are small and with a very tight coil; the neck is long, thin and fine; the navel is very small; the udder well developed, and tail is long, almost touching the ground. The colour is usually black, but brown is also met with. Wall eyes, white markings on the forehead, face, muzzle and legs, and a white switch to the tail are much liked. The mature male and female weigh on an average 1,300 lb. and 1,000 lb. respectively.

RAVI BUFFALO

As the name implies, these animals are found in the valley of the Ravi river, particularly in the Sandal Bar, and they are sometimes spoken of as the Sandal Bar buffalo. The best specimens of the breed are kept by janglis, a nomadic tribe, who take pride in maintaining large numbers of the animals. They pay great attention to breeding, though little to feeding.

The Ravi breed is known for its milking qualities. The average milk yield is

about 4,000 lb. in a lactation of 250 days.

A typical Ravi buffalo possesses a massive body and a deep frame with a coarse and heavy head, slightly convex in the centre and sloping towards the base of the horns. The forehead is flat, the nasal bone is broad and there is a marked depth from the base of the horns to the angle of the jaw. There is a distinct double chin. Horns are broad and thick with a tight coil. The neck is long, thick and broad. The udder is well developed. The tail extends to the fetlocks and has a white switch. The usual colour is black, though brown is not uncommon. Pink markings are sometimes seen on the udder and brisket. Wall eyes and white markings are liked,

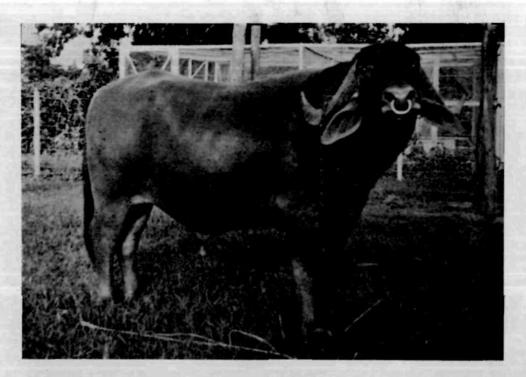
SURTI BUFFALO

THE home of this breed is the 'Charottar' tract of Gujerat in the Bombay Province and the neighbouring territory in Baroda State, but these buffaloes are also to be found in South Gujerat and the Deccan. The best specimens come from Nadiad, Anand and Borsad talukas in the Kaira district of Bombay and Petland of Baroda State.

These buffaloes are considered to be economical producers of milk and butterfat and large numbers of them are annually exported to other areas for milk production, particularly to the city of Bombay. The average milk yield is about 3,650 lb.

with 7.5 per cent butter-fat.

The Surti is a well-shaped animal of medium size. The general appearance is bright with prominent eyes, straight back, sickle shaped flat horns of medium length, long and broad head rounded between the horns, a wedge-shaped barrel rather low on the legs, with wide and deep hindquarters, and a fairly long tail ending in a white tuft. The colour is black or brown, and good specimens have two white collars, one round the jaw and the other round the brisket. They are generally mild and have a placid disposition.



Surti buffalo bull



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ACC.No.....

Surti buffalo cow