

High Farming at Hilldale

By "Your Uncle Henry"

I have been doing some tall thinking of late over at the old farm. You knew I have just recently got back from a trip out West. I was over to see one of my nephews the other day. He was all eager to hear about the West. Says he: "What do you think about the West anyway? Do you think it would be a good place for me?"

This was after supper. I had gone out to the barnyard with my nephew, leaving the women folks and your Aunt Maggie with them to finish up the supper dishes. I went out with my nephew in order that I might talk with him while he was finishing up his chores.

To my nephew's question I replied: "The West is a great country. But you knew we have things here in Ontario that they have not got out there, and I tell you Ontario suits me pretty well." "But," said my nephew, "don't you think a fellow like you could get along much better out West? Of course you know I have things pretty cosy down here. I own this 100-acre farm, and it is a good farm too, and I have gotten now that I can get along and do nearly all of the work myself. I don't need to hire a man any more. But somehow I don't seem to get along the way I think I should."

IT PAYS TO GO TO A MAN

"Well," said I, "don't you think it would pay you to hire a man? If one man working with his own two hands could get rich quick that way, why, man alive! all of the laboring men would be rich! I tell you it would pay you to hire a man. Hire him by the year. Then see to it that he has enough work to do that will bring you in enough to pay his wages and a profit besides. It seems to me it is time enough for you to think about going out West and looking for a country of greater opportunities, when you have gotten to the limit of the possibilities right here on your own farm, where you have opportunities, comforts and many kinds of advantages that you could never have out West!"

"I see you do not keep many cows. You have no silo. You grow no corn. You feed the cows you have on hay and grain. These are expensive feeds. They will not make milk as well as corn fodder, or better still, corn ensilage, and they cost you much more to produce. I know it would pay you to grow at least 10 acres of corn on this 100-acre farm."

"Then you should have some alfalfa, bran in protein, corn—that protein you know being the stuff that makes milk and muscle, and which is so expensive to buy when you get it in mill feeds or other stuff you buy upon the market."

A WELL-TIMED CONCLUSION

"Now before one ought to think of going else where, he ought to develop these things at home. He ought to do his best here, and then, if things do not go to suit, it is plenty of time to change and look for new fields to conquer, even over the distant hills, which always look so green."

Like the Dutch uncle that I am, I talked to my nephew about several other things along this line, about which I have been reading in Farm and Dairy and practicing on my own farm. He agreed that I was right and that it would pay him to keep more stock, grow more cheap feed and have a silo to keep corn in, so that it would be in the best shape for feeding through the winter.

When we got back to the house we found it late; the women folks set in

to sold us over being such a long while doing up those chores.

During the evening, before your Aunt Maggie and I left for home, my nephew introduced a new subject by getting out the Saturday Globe and reading to me a portion of Peter Arthur's writing, which brought out another idea I would like to discuss. I will have to leave it for another time, but before I close I will give you the main idea. Think it over and I'll talk about it next time I write.

A NEW IDEA FOR US FARMERS

"The producer and the salesman are two entirely different beings. Anyone studying farm conditions is bound to see that farmers naturally fall into two classes—the producers and the traders. Those with a bent for business—who have a faculty for buying and selling often prosper, while those who rely on producing seldom prosper, and often become so discouraged that they even fail as producers. An investigating psychologist would certainly find a great difference between a man whose bent is to deal with nature, and the one who is able to deal successfully with his fellow-men. The producer is entirely handicapped when it comes to getting a fair price for his goods. Therein it seems to me is the most difficult problem with which educationists and economists have to deal."

Distribution of Seed

A distribution of superior sorts of grain and potatoes will be made during the coming winter and spring to Canadian farmers. The samples for general distribution will consist of spring wheat five pounds, white oats four pounds, barley five pounds, and field peas five pounds. These will be sent out from Ottawa. A distribution of potatoes (in three pound samples) will be carried on from several of the experimental farms, the Central Farm at Ottawa supplying only the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. All samples will be sent free by mail.

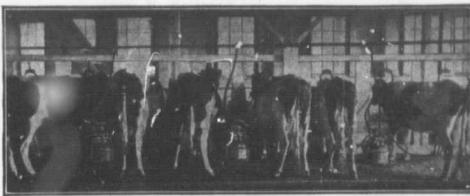
Applicants must give particulars in regard to the soil on their farms, and some account of their experience with such kind of grain (or potatoes) as they have grown, so that a promising sort for their conditions may be selected. Each application must be separate and must be signed by the applicant. Only one sample of grain and one of potatoes can be sent to each farm. Applications on any kind of printed form cannot be accepted. If two or more samples are asked for in the same letter only one will be sent.

As the supply of seed is limited, farmers are advised to apply early, but the applications will not necessarily be filled in the exact order in which they are received. Preference will always be given to the most thoughtful and explicit requests. Applications received after the end of January will probably be too late.

All applications for grain (and applications from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec for potatoes) should be addressed to the Dominion Cerealists, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Such applications require no postage. If otherwise addressed delay and disappointment may occur.

Applications, for potatoes, from farmers in any other province should be addressed (postage prepaid) to the Superintendent of the nearest Branch Experimental Farm in that province—J. E. Grisdale, Director, Dominion Experimental Farms.

I would not be surprised to see in the next issue of the Holstein-Friesian Blue Book, eight or ten 40-lb. butter records recorded. It is only reasonable to suppose that they will shortly have the 40-lb. cow.—J. W. Dimick, Woodcrest Farm, N. Y.



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