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# FARM AND DAIRY

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## RURAL HOME

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### AN ONTARIO FARM WHERE THE HOME STANDS PARAMOUNT

Special Crops Enter Largely Into the Farm Practice—The Soil is Cropped Heavily, but Fertility is Maintained—Farm of Mr. A. Smith, Farmer, Horticulturist and Apiarist.

HOME is the weak part of many farms. Other things being equal, it should be the strongest feature. Ponderless we come into this world, and it is so ordered that we cannot take money away. What, then, shall be done with it? Many of our farmers are turning more and more of their capital to good account in fixing up their homes. And for this they are to be commended.



Mr. A. Smith

Among those men who have long since recognized the importance of the "home" end of the farm, and who have directed expenditures accordingly, is Mr. Alex. Smith, a farmer in Durham County, Ontario, whose farm last year secured first place in the Special Good Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy for that county. Early last month an editor of Farm and Dairy visited Mr. Smith at his home and made the observations from which the following is written:

In many ways Mr. Smith's home approaches the ideal. The house is of red brick and is located amidst most pleasing surroundings. When Mr. Smith started on this farm in 1880, or 30 years ago, the half mile in front of his farm presented a most dilapidated appearance. Four old houses and their environments have been removed and the whole changed to a place of beauty.

#### A HOME WORTH WHILE.

Mr. Smith deserves particular credit for having recognized the importance of an ideal home. The money spent upon his house, and which has been considerable, has not been spent in vain. Mr. Smith has with him his four sons, three of whom are grown to manhood, two are married, and all work harmoniously together.

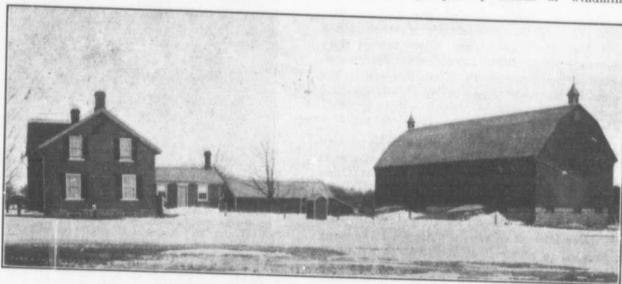
Although built 17 years ago, the main house, in which Mr. Smith resides, is essentially modern. It is equipped with water, hot and cold, on tap in the kitchen, and in a bathroom upstairs, the plumbing being all of lead piping fitted most completely. There have been no improvements made on the house since it was built.

It would seem curious to the passing stranger that this house could have been built 17 years ago and yet today be modern. This fact, however, is easily explained. Mr. Smith, with his characteristic foresight, inspected the best houses in the nearby town and even went to Toronto to examine up-to-date houses and to gather ideas for his own. Then, together with his architect, he planned his house complete before building operations were even started. The credit for their fine home does not all belong to Mr. Smith. Mrs. Smith is perhaps deserving of a greater share. To her ability, good judgment and good management, Mr. Smith owes much.

This fine home did not come by chance. Everything about it had to be worked for and earned, and while the load entailed at the time of building was very heavy, all has come through well, and prosperity now reigns.

#### A 260-ACRE FARM.

The farm as it now stands, it being added to on various occasions, comprises 260 acres. Not an acre of it is waste land. The soil is of clay loam, free of stones and works easily. It is such soil as can well afford the pretentious buildings that are erected thereon, and the whole but furnishes conclusive evidence of the wisdom of selecting good soil when purchasing a farm. Poor buildings can be countenanced for a time, and where good soil is, the necessary capital for good buildings may soon be had, provided the whole be under the proper kind of management.



The Second Set of Farm Buildings on Mr. Alex. Smith's Farm

There are few farms about which things are as neat and in good order as this one. Mr. Smith's eldest son will live in the house shown in the illustration. Being mechanically inclined, Mr. Will Smith has worked into his shows are all painted. Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

A noteworthy feature of Mr. Smith's farm practice is the special crops he grows. Alsike and mammoth clover and beans furnish a considerable part of his revenue. The harvest from these special crops finds a ready cash sale and at good prices. Being legumes, they do not rob the soil as do other crops that might be grown and on this account the land, although often heavily cropped, is well maintained in fertility. Mr. Smith has seeded 163 acres of grain this spring. He writes that he has seeded 40 acres of this to alsike, over 100 to red clover with a little timothy and alsike mixed in it, and 11 acres to mammoth clover. Particulars of how Mr. Smith handles some of these special crops will be given in Farm and Dairy later, as well as other particulars of his farm.

#### PAINTWORK IN FARM WORK.

There is much about the layout of this farm worthy of being copied elsewhere. Large fields are the rule. One hundred acres of the farm is divided into four 25-acre fields. All of the fields are large. Especial care has been taken with the fences. All the old-fashioned, crooked rail fence-

ing has been removed, and such fencing as is required has been erected in a substantial manner. Most of the fencing is of the best grade of woven wire. These fences have been staked out and are lined to a hair's breadth. Mr. Smith asserts that all his fences have been measured off and that none of them are out more than two or three inches, if at all, from being on the square, thus facilitating the working of the fields, there being no gores, which, on so many farms, cause loss of time when working.

Everything about the place is done on this same principle of exactness. Great care is taken in plowing and sowing, the result being that there are many lines of drills and furrows down which it is a pleasure to look. In this particular, Mr. Smith is fortunate in that he has his four boys, and while it takes more time to do work in this way, he maintains that it is well worth while.

The barns are substantial and well built. Complete systems of water works have been installed in each, so that the cattle can take water at will. The water is pumped by means of windmills.

Everything about the barns, as at the houses, has been planned with an eye to convenience.

A factor in the success of the farm under consideration is Mr. Smith's system of bookkeeping. Complete records are kept. All transactions have been recorded. Mr. Smith points with due pride to his accounts in which he can trace all expenditures, even to minor amounts during the past 30 years.

#### THE LIVE STOCK.

While Mr. Smith has been particularly enthusiastic over all that is modern and up-to-date in things pertaining to his home, his buildings and farm management, he has not branched out as we would expect in matters pertaining to live stock. His experience with pure bred stock has not been satisfactory; however, stock much above the average is kept. Shorthorn cattle of the dual purpose type are his favorites, while in horses he inclines to the general purpose and agricultural types in which are strong dashes of Clydesdale blood. Quite a number of cattle are fed annually. About eight cows are milked. These cows are of