

# FARM AND DAIRY



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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## Mr. W. C. Good As a Practical Farmer

He Puts As Much Brains and Energy Into His Farm as He Does Into Farmers' Organization Work. Some Notes on His Farm and Farming Methods

W. C. GOOD is well known to the farmers of Canada. The large part he played in the organization of the United Farmers' movement in Ontario and the valuable service he rendered as president of the cooperative company during its first and most difficult year are fully understood by the Ontario farmers who worked with him, and who are in the best position to appreciate the value of his services. Time and again his faith and self-sacrificing devotion put new life into the uphill fight of the little handful of men who were appointed to control the destinies of the United Farmers' Cooperative Company, Limited, in its formative stages. In this his public capacity, as well as through being Master of the Dominion Grange, W. C. Good is well known. It is not so well known, however, that he is a capable and successful farmer. The same intelligence and energy that have made his services so valuable to his fellow-farmers, he has made valuable to himself in the improvement of the old Good homestead, three miles from the city of Brantford. Mr. Good has a sympathetic understanding of rural problems, because he has met the difficulties which face the practical farmer. He has travelled and is travelling the same road as they, and he knows how hard it sometimes is. He took over the old homestead burdened with considerable debt. These encumbrances are being cleared away, while at the same time the farm has been improved in all departments; and the subject of our sketch is now approaching his Mecca of material prosperity, the ownership of a debt-free, money-making Ontario farm. But of this more later.

F. E. ELLIS, B.S.A., EDITOR, FARM AND DAIRY

When Mr. Good started in to make his living from the home acres, he did not have the decided advantage that is afforded by a naturally fertile, productive, well-drained soil. What the soil is he has largely made it. The major portion of the 120 acres is a clay loam with a few light knolls throughout the fields. About 10 acres is almost entirely sand. Practically all of the farm is under the plow, five acres being in orchard. "I wouldn't call this a first-class farm, so far as the soil goes," admitted Mr. Good. "Part of it is light and some of the sharp slopes wash badly. Still, it is not a bad farm."

A big factor in making the soil as productive as it now is, has been the systematic rotation of crops over the whole farm. Mr. Good follows no "rule of thumb" in his rotation. In his estimation a knowledge of the principles that underlie rotations are essential to the best soil management. His crops are varied according to his requirements and the fluctuations of the market, but the principles of a good rotation are not violated. I can do no better than tell of the cropping system as Mr. Good told it to me as we sat in the living-room of his new and modern farm home on the evening of my visit with him last May.

"I regard alfalfa as the best of all hay crops," said Mr. Good, "and I aim to have a field of alfalfa for hay, which is outside of the regular rotation. On the remainder of the farm I practice a four or five year rotation, according to conditions. My five-year rotation, which is most generally followed, consists of oats the first year,



W. C. Good, "In Clover."

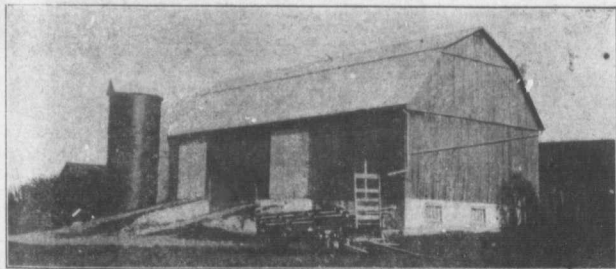
This photo taken early in June, shows the splendid growth of red clover on a thin, sandy field on the Good farm. Notice that it reaches to Mr. Good's knees. Such growth is the result of intelligent soil management.

wheat and corn the second, mixed grain the third, oats the fourth, and pasture on the fifth year. I alter this rotation occasionally by seeding down with the mixed grain and pasturing or cutting hay the following year. This rotation may not be the ideal one, as commonly advocated, but I can give you some reasons why we find it desirable on this farm.

"We have seven fields altogether. Deducting one for alfalfa, this leaves one extra field outside of the five-year rotation. On it we can grow any crop we like. This year, for instance, we have two fields of oats. Last year we had two fields of wheat. The crop that we grow on this field is determined by conditions. If we were short of straw we would probably grow fall wheat. This year oats are a good price on the market, and we consider it a desirable crop for increased acreage.

### Deep Plowing of Sod

"Manure is applied after the oat harvest. The oats, you will notice, come on fall-plowed soil, and did we add the manure here the growth would be too rank, would go largely to straw, and lodge badly. In plowing the sod we go quite deep. I would not advocate changing from six-inch plowing to 10-inch plowing in one year, but if the depth is increased one inch each time it is plowed on fairly heavy land, one gets a great



Mr. Good Was the Architect and Builder of His Modern Barn and Stables.

The foundations are of hollow brick, the roof is self-supporting and covered with corrugated metal. The steel silo has not given complete satisfaction. Notice the wagon rack in the foreground. It may also be adjusted as a stock rack and is of Mr. Good's own invention. The wagon itself was purchased over 50 years ago.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.