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A STORY OF SUCCESS ON A FARM IN OLD QUEBEC

How a famous herd of Holsteins was started by the purchase of two pure bred animals years ago. Some things the herd is now doing. A description of the farm of Neil Sangster, Huntingdon Co., Que.

THE experience of Mr. Jas. Sangster, the father of Neil Sangster, of Ormstown, Que., who laid the foundations of the Ormstown herd of Holsteins, proves that the path of the pioneer is apt to be a hard one, whether he be attempting to get a start in a new country or to introduce new and progressive methods in an old one. In the latter case particularly the reformer must learn much ridicule. When he decided to break away from the practices of himself and his neighbors, and go in for high class pure bred cattle, Mr. Sangster was laughed at by his friends. Those neighbors did not, and probably Mr. Sangster himself did not know that when he paid several hundred dollars for those two animals, a bull and a heifer, which caused such amusement in his vicinity many years ago, that he was laying the foundation of what was to be one of the best herds of Holstein cattle in Canada, the herd that is now owned by his son, Mr. Neil Sangster, on the old homestead. The price of several hundred dollars must have looked pretty steep even to Mr. Sangster, but he had the courage of his convictions and went ahead. When he passed away he left to his son a first class herd of pure bred Holsteins, practically all of them tracing back to the two animals that he first purchased. This is the story of the foundation of this well known Ormstown herd of Holsteins.

WHAT THE HERD IS NOW DOING

Mr. Neil Sangster has achieved many notable triumphs in the Holstein world. Last year, at the Ottawa Winter Fair, one of his cows, Rhoda's Queen, produced 302.8 pounds of milk testing three per cent in three days, making a world's record for milk production at a public test. At the same fair Maude DeKol, a full sister of Rhoda's Queen, also bred by Mr. Sangster, produced 276.3 pounds of 3.6 per cent milk in three days, which is also a world's record. In the three-year-old class at this test, Rhoda's Queen 2nd, a daughter of Rhoda's Queen, produced 176.3 pounds of 3.1 per cent milk.

But this was not the first time Mr. Sangster's Holsteins have come out on top in dairy test work. Ever since the establishment of the dairy test at Ottawa Mr. Sangster has been a prominent winner. Every year but one Holsteins, either owned by him or bred by him, have won the championship over all breeds. Last year Mr. Sangster went to the Toronto International Exhibition and won several of the most coveted prizes there offered. And all of this success is due primarily to the courage of one man in breaking away from established practices, braving the ridicule of his neighbors and starting right with pure bred stock.

Mr. Sangster is a firm believer in the testing of dairy cows for production, and used all of

his influence to induce the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association to accept the Record of Performance test. When the test was accepted he was quick to enter a number of his cows. Mr. Sangster has been careful also to have his cows tested in Record of Merit, and because of their creditable records his herd has become known far and wide for their producing ability.

Mr. Sangster's farm, situated only a couple of miles from the village of Ormstown, contains 120 acres of rich clay soil. When his father first



A Pioneer of His District in Alfalfa Growing

Alfalfa has not been very extensively tried in the Beauharnois District of Quebec province, nor have experiments with the crop been very successful. Mr. Neil Sangster knows a good thing when he sees it, and is going to grow alfalfa if it is at all possible. Mr. Sangster may be here seen and his alfalfa field as it looked the latter part of May.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

moved on the farm it was all bush and swamp. A horse could not be worked on it. Now the whole farm is under cultivation, and is numbered among the best farms in the two noted dairy counties of Chateaugay and Huntingdon. The excellent crops of corn, hay, peas and oats grown by Mr. Sangster bear testimony to the richness of the soil and the character of the management. Mr. Sangster's fields are large and so laid out that the furrows in plowing are of a maximum length, thus permitting of farm operations being conducted at the least expense for labor.

A PIONEER WITH ALFALFA

One of the first things to which Mr. Sangster called the attention of an editor of Farm and Dairy who called at his farm last spring was a two-acre strip of alfalfa. There is a common idea that alfalfa does not grow well in Quebec pro-

vince. Mr. Sangster is going to give it a thorough trial, and he believes that he will succeed with the crop. The field that we inspected showed a strong uniform catch, and at that date (late in May) had made a good growth of several inches. "If we can grow alfalfa in this section," said Mr. Sangster, "it will be a blessing second only in value to the Holstein cow."

The farm buildings are of a type characteristic of the Beauharnois district. There is no basement in the barn, and the stables are on ground level with wooden walls. Mr. Sangster's stables are well lighted and unusually well ventilated. He has a combination of the Rutherford and King systems of ventilation, which keeps the air pure at all times. The cattle stand in two long rows facing each other. The floors throughout are of cement. Liberal use is made of white wash.

THE BEST TIE YET

Water flows from an elevated tank to individual basins in front of each cow. The tie-up that Mr. Sangster uses is one of the best that we have seen. Two iron bars about one inch in diameter are adjusted far enough apart to admit of the cows putting their horns through readily. The cows are secured by a chain around the neck, and short chains run to rings that move freely on either bar. "The beauty of this tie," said Mr. Sangster, "is that the cows have a maximum amount of liberty, but have no chance to interfere with each other or to press out too far in front."

Cleaning the stables is rendered easy by litter carriers. The manure is hauled directly to the field each day in winter. A device that Mr. Sangster finds of particular value is a roof extending out over the track, an illustration of which appears elsewhere in this issue. This roof prevents ice and snow collecting on the track, hindering the operation of the carriers and at the same time sheds the water away from the manure that may collect there in rush seasons.

CAN ALWAYS GET HELP

As most of the work in connection with the dairy herd comes in the winter on this farm, Mr. Sangster employs his men the year round, and hence has a minimum amount of trouble in securing help. The number of years that his men stay with him would indicate that Mr. Sangster is also a tactful employer.

This fine Quebec farm, with its finer herd of pure bred cattle, is a monument of the courage of one man. It shows the results that may come to those who are willing to break away from established practices and follow that which they believe to be right. The success that has come to the Sangsters from having the courage of their convictions can be duplicated in a greater or less degree by all young farmers who are willing to for a time bear the ridicule of their fellows and launch out for better stock and stay with it till success is theirs.—F. E. E.