

Extensive Dairying as a Sideline

By J. C. McBEATH, '18.

WALKERSIDE Farm is an excellent example of intensive methods and proper management.

Whether large farms pay well or whether they do not has often been discussed and considerable diversity of opinion has arisen. From the writer's viewpoint the success of such operations depends largely upon successful management with the application of business principles.

DAIRYING A SPECIALTY.

The Walkerside Dairy, formerly the Essex Farm Dairy and now one of the largest and most up-to-date dairies in Canada or U. S. is one of the many enterprises owned and operated by Hiram Walker and Sons, Limited, of Walkerville. This firm operates the celebrated distilleries and breweries, a private bank, an insurance business and a lumber yard. Large quantities of tobacco and seed corn are also produced.

The new dairy farm is situated about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Walkerville and is reached by the Walker Road which is cemented for the entire distance. This plant was started only two years ago. It is planned to spend \$350,000 on it so it is far from being completed but the main buildings have been built and others will be constructed as time goes on.

BUILDINGS AND STABLES.

The arrangement of the buildings is very unique and picturesque. Immediately in front of the buildings is a field of about 20 acres around which runs a semi-circular cement road with a row of young maple trees on each side. Near the centre of this semi-circle are built 15 double houses for

the married employees. These houses are very conveniently planned and are supplied with running water and electric light.

The dairy building is large and spacious. It is equipped with the most modern and up-to-date machinery necessary for the handling of pure milk. Bottling machines, bottle washers, coolers, pasteurizers are all made use of. An ice-making machine which is kept running day and night provides means of cold storage.

The cow barns, four in number, are situated at the rear of the dairy building. In the near future two more similar barns will be built. They are of the much recommended one-storey type, each planned to stable two rows of 50 cows. The cattle all stand facing the light. At the end of each barn are two high silos which stand out rather conspicuously in contrast with the bungalow type of barn. The ventilation is a sort of compromise of several systems but unfortunately is not very satisfactory.

The calf and bull barns are of different type, these being two-storey and hip-roofed. The former accommodates from 150 to 200 calves while in the latter is kept 10 bulls and those cows which may be sick or due to freshen. These barns are heated by steam which comes from the grain elevator close by.

Then there are the large barns where the crops are stored. The basements are used as exercise paddocks and shelter for the dry cows and young stock.

Nearby stands a grain elevator with a capacity of 35,000 bushels. This is being fitted with the very best machinery possible.