



MR. A. E. WILLSON'S FARM STEADING.

year. Eight or ten are being milked at the present time. The cream is not churned but sold to confectioners in town, selling for 20 cents per quart during the summer. The hogs produced are butchered on the farm, the bacon cured and smoked and sold to dealers for 15 cents or around that per pound. Mr. Tyreman finding it more profitable to sell hogs in this way than to depend upon getting a profitable price for them alive. The system employed in curing will be given at some future time.

On the farm, wheat growing receives first attention. About 100 acres are summer fallowed each year, and 200 or 250 acres sown to wheat. In the line of special crops some field peas and turnips are being grown. The peas look like yielding 25 to 30 bushels per acre. The summer fallowing is done on the ordinary one plowing system. The land is plowed as early in the summer as other work will permit and by constant cultivation afterwards, the weeds are held down and the soil thoroughly cleaned out. The manure goes on to the summer fallow previous to plowing, or is applied to the root or potato soil.

A Farmer's Observations on Field Competitions

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I am sending you some suggestions, which I gathered from observations during my trip of inspection in judging standing fields of wheat on the Canadian Northern Railway, north and west of Warman.

What impressed me the most was the great improvement in both the care taken to prepare the land the previous year, and the care which farmers were taking to grow better and purer seed, especially in districts in which they had had two previous competitions.

Farmers are realizing it is useless to enter these competitions unless they have a piece of land either breaking or summerfallow, properly prepared the previous year, and anyhow fairly pure seed, free from wild oats, which has been properly treated with either formaline or bluestone, and everything else in good shape.

The Dominion seed grain department, and the Provincial agricultural department, are to be congratulated on undertaking this pure seed grain competitions and seed fairs in this province. The Dominion department is providing judges at their own expense, both for the standing field competitions, and the seed fairs.

The Provincial agricultural department works in harmony with the seed grain department, giving a grant of \$100 to each agricultural society that has a standing field competition, and paying two-thirds of the amount paid in prizes at the seed grain fairs.

The seed division has been fortunate in having a good live man to represent them in this province, who has the interest of pure seed grain at heart, and who was determined to make this work a success right from the start. The judges have been chosen irrespective of politics, which has given the seed grain department a better opportunity of picking the best men, and has given the farmers and agricultural societies every confidence in these competitions.

I advised farmers at the seed fairs last winter, to use formaline in preference to bluestone, on account of having weaker seed last spring than we generally have, and I noticed among thirty-nine competitors only three had used bluestone. In each of these three cases I found ball smut fairly plentiful, two out of the three had the purest wheat I found among any of the competitors I judged. One of these two won first prize last year, and first at the seed fair last winter. With the exception of two out of the thirty-six who used formaline, I found practically no ball smut, in the majority of the fields it was almost impossible to find one head of ball smut. I noticed this same condition on the experimental farm at Indian Head, ball smut was easier found in plots which had been treated with bluestone than where formaline was used.

A good deal of low grade wheat was used for seed all over the prairies last spring, but fortunately for the farmers who used much poorer seed than they would ever think of sowing after any normal season, we had a very favorable spring, and the poorer seed made a good stand besides. It is to be hoped the farmers in this province will not repeat the experiment of sowing lower grade wheat, it might be years before we have such a favorable spring again, and farmers are simply courting disaster to continue sowing anything but the best grade of wheat they own or can buy.

I noticed a good deal of the purest seed was started from a three pound bag of wheat from the experimental farm. I know of several cases in which a farmer had an eight acre field from seed obtained from the experimental farm three years ago last spring.

It is hard for farmers with old land to compete on an equal footing with farmers growing the first crop on breaking. The farmer on new land well worked up, if he sows clean seed free from noxious weeds, always has an advantage over a man on older land.

The seed grain department gives the agricultural societies the power, to a large extent, to make their own rules to govern these field grain competitions, the same societies give old land a preference of five per cent. over new land, as a man has to show more skill on an older farm on which noxious weeds have got a foothold, than a farmer taking a first crop off new land.

I am pleased to see farmers are realizing that to continue to grow good crops of wheat and clean up the land, they must either summerfallow every third year, or grow some rotation of crops to clear their land. It has been clearly demonstrated that a good part of this province, will not continue to grow wheat year after year without summer fallowing, and I noticed in older districts like Resthern quite a fair amount of summerfallow in good shape for another year's crop.

These seed competitions and seed fairs are opening farmer's eyes, especially in new districts to the danger of allowing any noxious weeds to spread in their districts. Before these competitions, in many districts, bad noxious weeds were allowed to spread without any effort made to fight them, one reason was, many farmers did not know when they saw a noxious weed. Now they are waking up to the fact that it is an easy matter to eradicate a few noxious weeds by hard pulling, and almost impossible to get clear of them when they once get a good hold on any district. One grain of wild oats in a bag of grain will throw out any exhibit at a seed fair. I am of the opinion that for this one reason, these competitions are worth the money they are costing the two departments.

Sask.

A. E. WILLSON.

DAIRY

American Dairy Notes

A students' judging competition will be held in connection with the third annual National Dairy Show at Chicago, December 2 to 10 inclusive. Any student of an agricultural college may enter. Six institutions have already expressed a desire to send teams to the contest.

Minnesota State Fair which opened at Hamline, Minn., on Aug. 31st, brought out one of the finest displays of dairy products ever seen at any of the forty-nine state fairs previously held. Butter entries were particularly heavy.

Some of the Michigan creameries seem to be sailing too close to the wind in the matter of the 16 per cent. water limit for butter. One prominent creamery of that state, already penalized once for exceeding the limit, is in trouble again. Such work rarely pays.

A trio of Massachusetts butter makers have formed a company for the manufacture of glue. They have discovered that a number of kinds of glue and pastes of different consistency, and applicable in a number of useful ways, may be manufactured as a milk product.

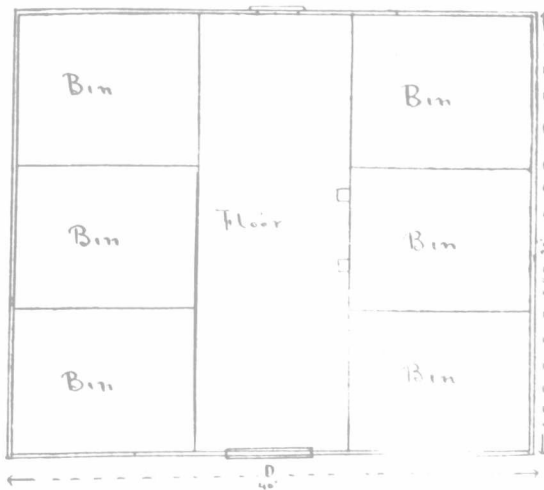
The United States agricultural department reports that there are 19,000,000 cows in the United States and that they produce nearly 68,000,000,000 pounds of milk annually. From this milk is manufactured 1,650,000,000 pounds of butter and 300,000,000 pounds of cheese.

Very few club headed, thick necked, steer horned cows are any good. Even with the cow, the tail tells a tale; the heavy club tail seldom follows a good cow, while on the other hand, a slim tail is one of the characteristics of a good one.

The Ontario Provincial Department of Agriculture has 34 instructors whose sole duty it is, during the cheesemaking season, to go from factory to factory and creamery to creamery, with a view of assisting the makers in producing a first class article of cheese and butter, and in establishing uniformity which could not be secured in any other way.

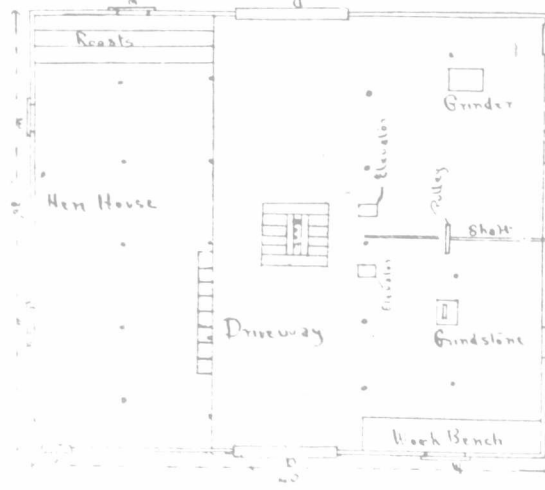
Up to the present the export of cheese from the Dominion is some 130,000 boxes below last year which was considerably below the season of 1906. This is accounted for largely by the fact that many cows were sold and slaughtered in the Eastern provinces because the farmers had not sufficient feed to carry them over winter, and those kept, were in many instances, in poor condition when the season opened. Then the percentage of farrow cows this year is much larger in number than usual.

More creameries fail through lack of proper management than from any other cause. Dairying has grown to such dimensions in these days, competition among creameries has become so keen, that only well-informed men can succeed in it. Indifference to the changes that are constantly taking place, unprogressiveness, getting behind in method or equipment, will sooner or later affect a creamery's business disastrously. The dairy science is developing. A man nowadays, who makes butter, or manages a creamery, has to know a lot more about his business than the operator of twenty years ago knew, has to be informed in matters which the maker of that period never dreamed of.



Second floor showing bin

FLOOR PLAN OF MR. WILLSON'S FARM.



Basement showing grain room and shed.