

# FARM AND DAIRY

## RURAL HOME

### THE BEST DAIRY FARM IN TWO PROVINCES

A Story of the Upward Struggle and the Success Achieved by R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., Whose Farm Won First Award in the Interprovincial Prize Farms' Competition Conducted by Farm and Dairy—His Farm and Farming Methods Described by an Editor of Farm and Dairy

**A** MOST inspiring record as a farmer and stock breeder is that of Mr. R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., whose farm won first place in the great Interprovincial Prize Farms Competition, conducted by Farm and Dairy in 1911 and 1912. It might well be a source of much gratification to Mr. Ness to have the judges of the competition decide that he has the best farm in two provinces. To have started with practically no assistance and built up such a farm and stock in a comparatively few years, is a record of which Mr. Ness



R. R. Ness

may very well be proud. The story of how Mr. Ness has climbed the ladder of success in farming should be an inspiration to young men who are now starting out as farmers. Young men who say that there is no money in farming and old hard heads who contend that "pure bred cattle and fancy farming are all right for fellows with lots of money, but they are beyond the reach of us ordinary farmers," may find reason in the record that has been made by this young Canadian farmer to change some of their opinions. Although he has been farming for only 19 years not only has Mr. Ness succeeded in acquiring the best farm of two provinces but he has also established a herd of Ayrshire cattle that is generally admitted to be the best on the continent and one of the best in the world. He has managed to travel extensively in Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. And all this has been accomplished without assistance, and in spite of the fact that, to use Mr. Ness's own words, "I have had my share of ups and downs." Burnside Stock Farm, the home of Mr. Ness, is situated about 40 miles south-west from Montreal and a mile from the village of Howick, in the rich valley of the Chateauguay River. It comprises about 145 acres of heavy clay land, all of which is under cultivation. The fields are level and so conveniently arranged that the farm work can be accomplished with a minimum of exertion. On the farm is one of the finest stock farms in Canada, fitted with all modern conveniences and especially designed by Mr. Ness

with an eye to the comfort and health of his Ayrshires and for convenience in attending to them. Until three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Ness contented themselves with a small house that was on the farm when they purchased it. They then erected one of the most modern and convenient farm homes that it has ever been our pleasure to visit. The buildings are situated well back from the road in a beautiful grove of elm trees. A more attractive situation it would be difficult to find.

#### LIKE A FAIRY TALE

The tale of how this farm has been improved and its ownership acquired by Mr. Ness reads like a fairy tale, with this improvement, that it is true. We do not say that every young man can do what Mr. Ness has done, because but few men possess the requisite energy, good judgment and ambition. Any young man, how-

son, who now has charge of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Nappan, N.S. Mr. Robertson was and is a most successful farmer and stock breeder, and to his teachings Mr. Ness ascribes much of the success that has been his. Mr. Ness agreed to take charge of this farm for Mr. Robertson, he to receive \$200 a year and a share in the profits.

In two years Mr. Robertson desired to sell the farm, and Mr. Ness, making his first bold bid for fortune, offered to buy it. His offer was accepted. The price of the farm was \$6,000. Mr. Ness raised \$4,000 of the purchase price on a mortgage and Mr. Robertson agreed to trust him for the remaining \$2,000. This loan was the only real help that Mr. Ness received in his start as an independent farmer. Mr. Ness started with little capital. During the two years that he had worked with his cousin, Mr. Ness had contrived to save \$600, out of his salary and share of the profits. This would indicate that he had not spent much money on a fancy buggy and driving horse or similar luxuries. With this small capital and some trust money he purchased

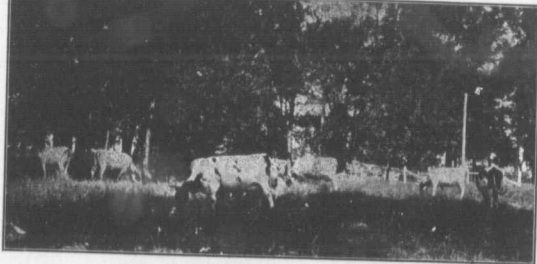
all the second-hand machinery on the farm, some 10 cows and two horses.

Mr. Ness has not achieved success by his own unaided efforts. The same year that he bought his farm he decided to marry. For his partner in the arduous undertaking he had before him, he selected Miss Margaret Peddie, of Howick, Mrs. Ness, although unaccustomed to farm work, took hold with a will, and during the intervening years has shown herself a splendid manager and helpmate. Mr. Ness appreciates the assistance and strength that he has received from his wife, and it was probably some such thought as this that inspired this remark: "I would advise young men to marry early.

It is a great mistake for young fellows to waste the best years of their life before they settle down."

#### THE FARM A GOOD ONE

One circumstance was greatly in Mr. Ness's favor. The farm was in splendid condition. Mr. Robertson, who had managed it ever since he was 13 years old, was a most capable farmer, and in 1891 had succeeded in winning a silver medal with the farm in a good farms competition conducted by the Quebec Government. Mr. Ness, however, had his reverses like all the rest of us. The first year both horses died and one of his best cows. Coming right at the start this was a serious set-back. It was only the first of several, but neither it nor the others were sufficient to hold back that determination to succeed that has since "made good." A few years later 13 cows out of 18 took sick and had to be disposed of. Obstacles such



Choice Ayrshires at Pasture on a Very Choice Farm

Mr. R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., whose farm won first place in the great Interprovincial Prize Farms Competition by Farm and Dairy, is known the world over as a breeder of Ayrshire cattle. At many of our greatest fairs he has carried off the lion's share of the awards. Mr. Ness's experience with pure-bred cattle, told in an adjoining article, along with the description of his farm, should be an inspiration to other young farmers.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

ever, who is determined to make a success of farming and who will follow similar methods should make an outstanding success of his calling.

Mr. Ness is modest. It is not easy to acquire from him the reasons for his success. This is not because he is unwilling to tell anything that will help his fellow farmers, but because he does not like to appear to blow. Such information as we here give, has been gathered by the editors of Farm and Dairy during the course of their several years' acquaintance with Mr. Ness.

#### THE START

Although his father, Mr. Robert Ness, Sr., is one of the best known farmers and breeders in Canada, Mr. R. R. Ness when he struck out for himself, a young man 19 years old, decided to hoe his own row. At that time a farm adjoining that of his father, and comprising some 94 acres, was owned by his cousin, Mr. R. Robert-