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## SUCCESS WITH PURE-BRED CATTLE IN OLD QUEBEC

A Story of the Experience of J. J. Tannahill, Huntingdon County, Que., Since He Assumed Control of the Old Farm, and of the Factors that have Enabled Him to Make His Business a Decided Success

**S**UCCESS is the great theme of the modern journalist. People may tire of the best fiction but a story of success that is based on fact is always sure of a good hearing. The series of articles that Farm and Dairy ran some months ago telling of the wonderful successes of New York Holstein breeders were followed with perhaps greater interest than any series of articles that ever appeared in our columns. We have since received the suggestion from several readers that we run a similar series of articles telling of the successes of Canadian breeders of pure-bred dairy cattle.

Canadians are naturally modest. The Canadian who has made a success as a breeder of pure-bred cattle does not care to talk about it for fear that he will be accused of "blowing." Mr. R. R. Ness, for instance, can tell a story of success that would rank with the best; but it took many visits to his home to get from him the information that was embodied in the article appearing in the Exhibition Number last year. An editor of Farm and Dairy recently spent a night and a day with Mr. J. J. Tannahill, Huntingdon Co., Que., and little by little gathered something of the history of Cloverlea Farm, as Mr. Tannahill calls his home.

### NOT A SENSATIONAL STORY

The Tannahills do not tell a story of success that came suddenly and sensationally as do some of their American brethren right across the line. Their story is rather one of quiet, purposeful endeavor extending over many years, a story that shows that can be done by the farmer who has an ideal and works for it. Freak successes make good reading; but successes such as that of Mr. Tannahill are easier of emulation, and should be greater encouragement to young men just starting to farm.

Mr. J. J. Tannahill is to-day tilling the same acres that his ancestors started to clear about the year 1820. When the present proprietor's father came into possession of the farm, the country was practically all in bush. To-day the country as far as the eye can see is laid out in level cultivated fields dotted with prosperous farmsteads. Mr. Tannahill, Sr., made dairying his specialty. He was a good judge of cows and had a lot of big strong cows, good producers, but of no particular breeding. The cheese factory checks showed his herd to be one of the best in the neighborhood.

### WORKING FOR A BOSS

In 1896 Mr. Tannahill, Sr., retired and his son John took charge of the farm. Sometime before this Mr. John Tannahill had spent a year in the West. "It is well to work under a boss," remarked Mr. Tannahill with a smile, "before you become a boss yourself. You then have an appreciation of the hired man's point of view and

are in a better position to successfully direct him."

The present proprietor of Cloverlea Farm was no sooner in harness than changes began to appear. Mr. Tannahill had been reading the farm magazines and taking note of the progress that pure-bred dairy cattle were making. As their



1—A Credit to the Farm

farm is located only a few miles from the United States border he had had an opportunity to visit some of the fairs held to the south of the line, and he saw what pure-bred cattle were doing for United States farmers. "Why not have a few Holsteins at Cloverlea?" he asked himself, and



2—A Well Equipped Quebec Farm Home

One of the progressive dairy cattle breeders of Quebec province is J. J. Tannahill, of Huntingdon county. The two illustrations herewith give one an idea of the neat appearance of Mr. Tannahill's buildings. Read his story in the article adjoining.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

as soon as he had the necessary authority he acted.

A. C. Hallman was at that time the best-known Holstein man in Canada. Mr. Tannahill wrote to Mr. Hallman. As a result of their correspondence he purchased a pure-bred Holstein bull.

The first year Mr. Tannahill contented himself with the cows that his father had left. The next

year he bought a pure-bred Holstein heifer from a near neighbor, Mr. Bell. The heifer had not been tested, but her conformation struck Mr. Tannahill as being just about right. He could not have made a more fortunate choice. That heifer is to-day the mother, grand-dam and great-grand-dam of the best cows in the Cloverlea herd.

"I guess I'll have to call it beginner's luck!" remarked Mr. Tannahill. "The heifer was a big strong animal and appealed to me. I did not then know anything like as much about judging dairy cattle then as I do now. I was so pleased with the results, however, that some time after, just 14 years ago now, I went to Sangster's sale and bought two cows. The price at Sangster's sale was considered simply terrible then, although they wouldn't be considered at all high now. One of them was the grandmother of Rhoda's Queen, the world's champion public test milking cow. I paid \$90 for her. For the other I paid \$70. These two were big cows with lots of constitution and udder development. Most of my herd still trace back to these three original purchases."

### THE HERD TO-DAY

The Cloverlea herd consists of 50 pure-bred Holsteins, 20 to 25 being milk cows. They have enabled Mr. Tannahill to remodel his farm buildings, to build a new house, and as he expresses it himself, "We have more conveniences in our home, we live better and go around more, we have a better time any way you take it, and we have our pure-bred cattle largely to thank for it all."

"I can remember," he continued, "when we used to take milk to the cheese factory in summer and had no money at all in winter. I am now shipping milk to Montreal, and our winter cheques are larger than our summer cheques. Even our summer cheques are more substantial than the best we ever got from the cheese factory."

### THE FARM ITSELF

Cloverlea Farm consists of 150 acres, 130 of which are under cultivation. The 20 acres in bush supplies most of the family fuel. The soil is a rich clay. The fields are so level lying that surface drainage has to be depended on. The fields are, however, very easy to work and there is no waste land anywhere. Mr. Tannahill follows a four-year rotation of corn, oats, clover and timothy, and pasture. As all of the raw material is consumed on the farm, as well as a considerable amount of bought feed, the soil at Cloverlea is continually increasing in fertility.

Mr. Tannahill's cow stable, recently remodeled, is 34 feet wide and 100 feet long. A feature of the buildings is the big stove silo 16 by 34 feet. Mr. Tannahill usually has a surplus of ensilage left for summer feeding, and the next addition to the buildings is going to be a small silo to be devoted exclusively to summer feeding, so satisfactory has been their experience with ensilage for silage. He already has a milking machine.

### A LUCRATIVE SIDE LINE

Mr. Tannahill does not believe in doing things by halves. Ever since he purchased his first Holstein he has been studying Holstein type, Hol-