

cattle, and the further provision of cold storage in the transportation of perishable products of the farm, such as cheese, butter, fruit, and poultry, whereby they may be placed upon the English markets in the best condition to command the best price. Mr. Fisher has also given considerable attention to the Canadian experimental farm system, the work of which he claims to have a practical and continued bearing upon the problems that confront the farmer and upon these well-recognized conditions under which permanent success may be assured.

Maple Shade Farm.

THE HOME OF HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

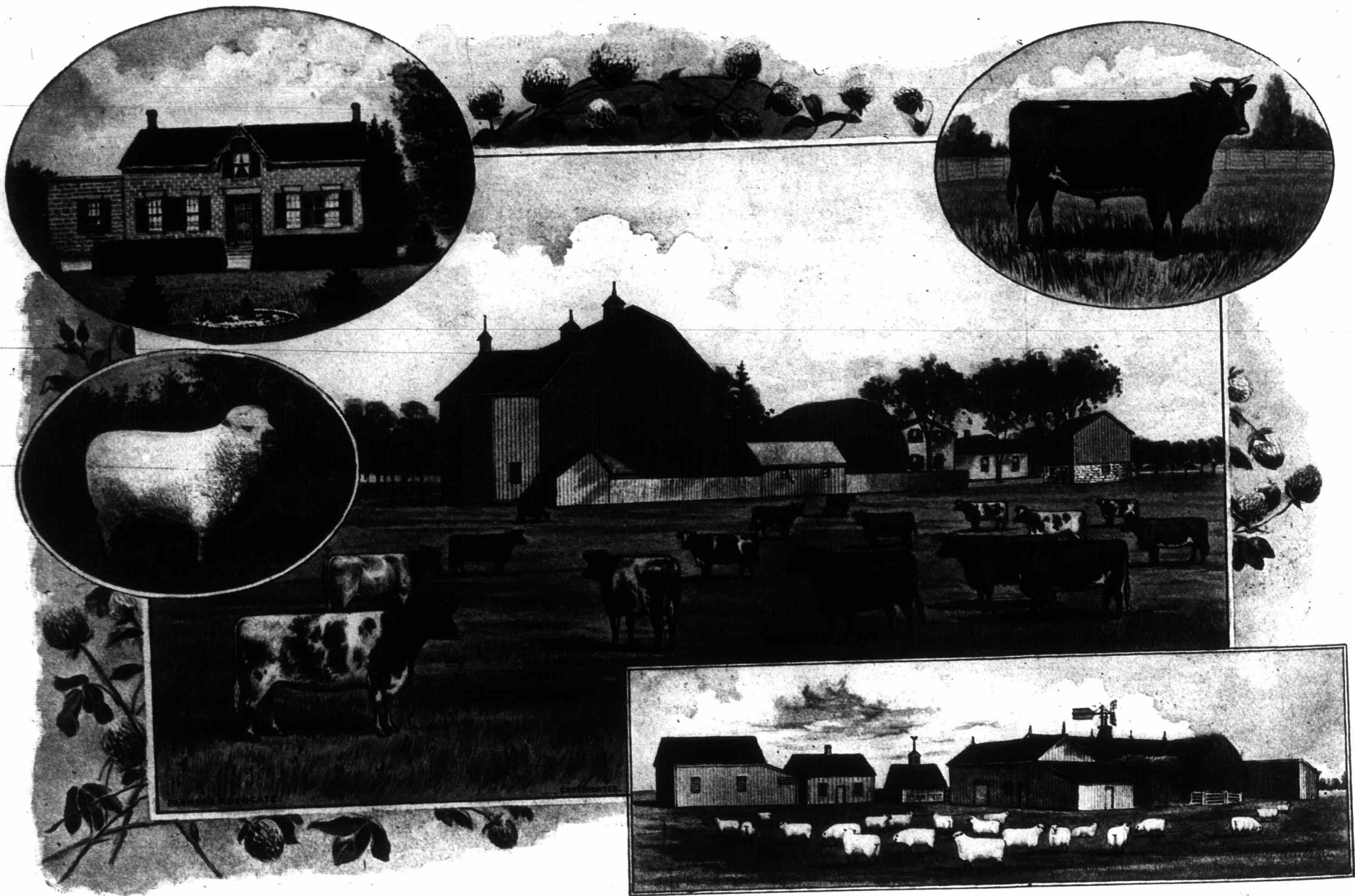
That a view of the farm of the Minister of Agriculture for the fair Province of Ontario should occupy a place among the best in Canada, as presented in these pages, is peculiarly fitting. The far-seeing shrewdness of Squire James Dryden led him to settle in a choice district of one of the best counties in Canada at a time when there was little to help one to decide but the general "lay" of the land and the character of the forest growth. That was in the early thirties, long before his son, the present Minister of Agriculture, was born. With that indomitable perseverance which characterized the pioneers from the Old Land, a beautiful homestead

maintaining the land in good condition, both chemically and mechanically. Corn-growing has found favor at "Maple Shade," and each year magnificent crops are reared and preserved in two large silos, one of which, built in '97, is octagonal and of cement concrete. One is also pleased to notice the protected areas of bush from the tramping and browsing of live stock and the woodman's axe, which commends itself to more general practice. The orchards are well kept and the productive vegetable and small-fruit gardens laid out so as to be tilled by horse cultivation.

"Maple Shade" has some specialties along the line of live stock, in which the proprietor takes peculiar interest. The greater of these is perhaps the right good herd of Shorthorn cattle. In Mr. Dryden's early days his fancy was pleased when his father purchased a two-year-old Shorthorn heifer from the Hon. John Simpson, in 1865, and in the following year a cow with heifer calf at foot were added to the nucleus of the herd. Five years later the herd of Amos Cruickshank, Sittytton, Scotland, was personally visited by Mr. John Dryden, when the famous bull, Stanley, and the three-year-old cow, Mimulus, by the celebrated Champion of England, and the yearling heifer, Queen of Beauty, were selected and brought to "Maple Shade." Wisdom was indeed shown in this selection, as the cow Mimulus proved one of the best

and yearlings. These were all of Cruickshank breeding and type. We believe good judgment has been shown in the selection of the Duthie-bred yearling, Collynie Archer, just arrived from Scotland. He is a showy red fellow, a son of the famous bull, Scottish Archer, whose calves have brought such enormous prices during the last year. He is from Mr. Mann's Missie family, his pedigree being the same as Margengo, the Royal champion of 1888, and was sold as a calf at auction for \$950. Mr. Dryden regards the securing of this bull as a very desirable purchase, and looks for exceedingly good results.

Such a farm as we have under consideration would be incomplete without a flock of sheep, which indeed it supports in a form becoming a shepherd's care. Cotswolds were, previous to the eighties, Mr. Dryden's favorites, but in 1881 a start was made to establish a Shropshire flock, which was augmented the following year when the proprietor, accompanied by the late H. H. Spencer, visited England, each selecting some sixty head from the best flocks in Britain. Since that time regular importations have been made from the flocks of Bowen Jones, Mansel, Buttar, Bird, Fowler, Thomas, and others. All through these years a constant culling has been practiced in the breeding flock, and only choice rams of celebrated families used. It is sufficient to refer simply to the present stock ram to indicate the character of breeding followed. His



THE HOME OF HON. JOHN DRYDEN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR ONTARIO, AT BROOKLIN, ONTARIO, CANADA.

soon rose from the little better than trackless forest. A public servant whose effort was to promote the best interests of the young country, and a thoroughly honorable gentleman, as well as a wise farmer, his son, John, acquired a fortunate inheritance by nature and by bequest. Since the present owner became its proprietor the farm has been augmented by about half its present area, and its thrifty condition bears indubitable impress of the thorough-going methods of a progressive farmer and stock breeder, characteristics of the man in all his relations. "Maple Shade," suitably named from the numerous lanes bordered with beautiful emblematic trees, embracing some 420 acres of land, is a model farm in many respects. Its rich, early, friable soil, sufficiently undulating to please the eye and provide ample drainage, is fenced and built upon becoming its natural features. The fields are of suitable size, systematically laid out, underdrained where necessary and cultivated after a four-years rotation with a view principally for the most profitable support of the valuable herds and flocks finding their home there. Being peculiarly adapted to fall wheat, this is the only grain crop grown for sale, and of this a considerable breadth is sown each year, which not only returns a direct revenue but has a distinctive value in working out the favored rotation, in providing liberal crops of straw for bedding and assisting in securing clover catches of great value for fodder and

dams of the breed, producing as she did Royal Duke of Gloucester, used in the Sittytton herd, and the great sire and show bull Barnpton Hero, used so profitably by Messrs. Watt Bros., of Salem, Ont. To these females and their produce were added animals of similar character as opportunities presented themselves, and in 1887 a bold stroke was made when the entire herd of Edward Cruickshank, of Lethenty, Scotland, comprising thirty females, twenty-one of which being directly descended from Sittytton stock, were secured and added to the herd. These included members of such tribes as Victorias, Secrets, Brans with Buds, Lavenders, Orange Blossoms and Venuses, some of which are yet represented in the herd. The bulls with this importation were Patriot and Sussex, each of which left their impress on the generations following. Before these, however, should not be forgotten Royal Barnpton, Lord Glamis, and Vensgarth, the names of which enter into the pedigrees of many a good one of the present day. Red Emperor, too, was used for a season, and it was only the tempting offer of \$1,000 that took him from the farm at two years old. Following Patriot and Sussex came Color Guard, purchased from the herd of Col. Harris; then Cornish, from the herd of March, by Barnpton Hero, and Royal, whose dam was sired by the best son of Barnpton, the last named being the sire of the present

breeder was A. E. Mansel, who has probably won more prizes at the English Royal than any other breeder of recent years. The ram is Bonny Royal, out of fourteen of whose immediate male ancestors eight have been Royal winners, three of which were his sire, grandsire, and the sire of his dam. He is a model Shrop, not overly large, but aristocratic in bearing, colored and covered just right. It is not strange, then, that his daughters of '98 possess a family resemblance, as pretty and uniform as one ever sees. A rare good bunch of vigorous lambs foraged the clover fields during the past autumn.

Remembering the multiplying public duties devolving upon Mr. Dryden in his parliamentary life, it could have been only by the most strict adherence to a well-grounded and wise principle that his flocks and herds exhibit such uniformity of type and excellence of individuals. Mr. Dryden's motto, "The greatest quantity of the best quality," has indeed borne fruit in the herds and flocks of "Maple Shade."

Banana Farming.

Banana farming is an easy way to make a living in Queensland, Australia. There are now 5,000 acres under cultivation, and the product in 1897 was about 7,000,000. They are picked when green.