



The Buildings at Black Thorn Heath Farm are not Extravagant, but they combine Good Appearance with Comfort and Convenience.

Dr. J. H. Wesley Makes Farming a Hobby

And Reaps Dividends of Satisfaction From His Farm and His Jerseys—By F. E. Ellis

DR. J. H. WESLEY, of Newmarket, is rapidly becoming known in Ontario as a breeder of Jersey cattle. The story of this medical practitioner and Jersey breeder is the story of many another professional man who, reared on the farm, but living away from it for many years, never lost his love for the soil. Dr. Wesley was born on a farm near the town of Newmarket in York Co., Ont. He was one of eight children and in his boyhood days he went to school and did chores at home just like all other farm boys. It was in this period that he acquired the farm viewpoint and the farm way of doing things that is seldom acquired unless it be in one's early years. But there were eight children and only one farm and when the doctor was 18 years of age he had to decide between the farm and an education for a professional career. His was not the insecure of "the only boy."

"I liked farm work but thought I saw greater possibilities in another line," he told me frankly, during a chat early this spring. The other line was medicine, and for almost a score of years now Dr. J. H. Wesley has been known in Newmarket and the surrounding country as a successful medical practitioner. The doctor was no sooner well established in his practice, however, than the old love for the farm came back to him with redoubled force. On every hand city men were coming out from Toronto, buying farms and establishing country homes. Old farmsteads, improved by city money, began to dot the countryside all up and down the Metropolitan line from Newmarket to Toronto. The most of these farms were expensive hobbies, and unless their owners were wealthy enough to stand the loss of a few hundred to a few thousand dollars each year, their country estates were soon for sale. Dr. Wesley knew the fate of a large proportion of these city farmers, but with his early farm training he believed that he could buy a farm and make it self-supporting at least.

His plans did not call for a palatial residence, or thousands of dollars spent on mere appearance. What he wanted was a well-improved, well-managed dairy farm, near enough to visit frequently and not so large as to become a burden. His first farming venture brought more trouble than satisfaction, but the doctor was not discouraged. In 1914 he bought the farm he now owns and already he has made great improvements in the farm itself. He has erected new buildings throughout, and, most important of all in Dr. Wesley's eyes, he has established a beautiful herd of Jersey cattle. "I just love a Jersey," he told me. "When I get keyed up over the cares and sufferings of other folks and my nerves almost to the breaking point, I go out to the farm and spend an hour with the Jerseys. Then I come back feeling fit and ready." His neighbors speak of Dr. Wesley's Jerseys as his "safety valve."

The Jerseys.

At the time of my visit the herd numbered 33 head, a mixture of grades and pure-breeds with 16 cows milking. Sweet cream is shipped daily to the Prince George Hotel in Toronto. Among the registered cattle are some of the richest breeding. The present herd sire is Merry Prince, a son of Viola's Bright Prince, the greatest Jersey bull

in Canada, and now recognized, through the merit of his offspring, to be one of the great sires of the breed. The dam of Merry Prince is Brampton Merry Daisy, entered in the Record of Performance with a year's production of 9,177 lbs. of milk and 58 lbs. of butter fat, which, on an 80 per cent. basis, is the equivalent of 735 lbs. of butter. Merry Prince 1916, which is good proof that he combines excellent individuality with the best of breeding.

The choice of the females is Oxford Doty Garlick, imp. This cow was purchased by Dr. Wesley at one of the Cooper sales and in by Oxford You'll minding record prices at recent sale in the United States. Dr. Wesley has a young son of Oxford Doty Garlick sired by Combination's Premier, and this young bull is destined to head the herd, and a good future is expected of him. A nice heifer is Meadow Grass Grace, by Kirkfield's Choice. She is now running in Record of Performance as a two-year-old, and in less than eight months has given 6,210 lbs. of milk. Princess Belle, imp., was first in the two-year-old class and junior champion at the Toronto National in 1916.

The young stock from Merry Prince at "Black Thorn Heath Farm," as Dr. Wesley calls his place, are a particularly fine lot, one stall full of yearling heifers impressing me as being as fine and uniform a bunch of Jerseys as I had seen in a long time. The grades bred and there was little to choose between the grade and the registered heifers. All had fair sires for their breed and abundance of quality.

The Farm and Buildings.

The home farm, which is just a couple of miles from Newmarket, consists of 100 acres of rich clay loam soil, every foot of which is workable. The farm is now well fenced and the fields laid out for a regular rotation of crops, suitable to a dairy farm with the emphasis on clover hay, corn silage and coarse grains. At a distance Dr. Wesley owns an-

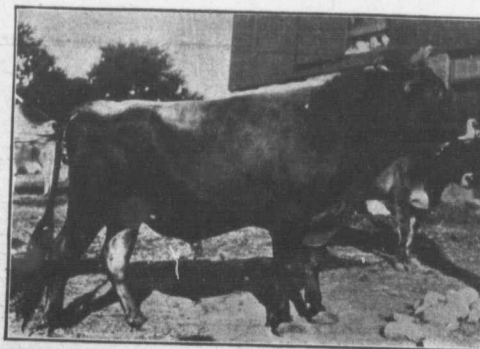
other 100 acres of "wild land" which is used for pasture.

The farm buildings are new throughout. The big red barn has ample storage room for all the crops of the farm and the basement is laid out as a model stable with steel equipment and concrete floors and mangers. The finishings are not elaborate, however, and there are evidences everywhere of what a farmer might term "sensible economy." The method of providing water for the cows is somewhat original. A continuous trough has been built into the concrete front of the mangers and therefore represented practically no additional expense. A gasoline engine in the basement pumps water, grinds feed and does the numerous other chores for which an engine always comes in handy on the farm. The arrangement of the feed grinder is particularly convenient. It is elevated above the stable floor and directly under the granary. Directly over the grinder in the granary is a large feed hopper and underneath the grinder is the feed box. Once the hopper in the granary is filled, the grain does not need to be handled again until it is fed to the cows.

Behind the main farm barn, is the pig and calf barn, one end devoted to calves, the other to hogs. Several pure-bred Berkshires are owned, and it is in this breed that Dr. Wesley plans to specialize. The machine shed is removed from the other buildings—a precaution in case of fire.

Dr. Wesley's professional duties do not allow of his living on the farm, but the most recent addition that he has made to the buildings is an attractive farm home of semi-bungalow type and here lives the farm manager, Mr. Dan McArthur. The first story of the house is of red brick; the second story is clad with brown stained shingles and the shingles of the roof are stained a moss green. A more attractive little home it would be difficult to find, and the site, slightly above the road and surrounded by the big trees that originally adorned the old farm house, is ideal. His farm manager explains in part, at least, Dr. Wesley's success in his second farming venture. Mr. McArthur is a good farmer and his son Archie, is developing into a thoroughly capable herdsman who makes up in enthusiasm what he lacks in years.

And how about the financial aspect of the venture? The capital account is now necessarily a large one for, in the four years that he has owned the farm, Dr. Wesley has made more improvements than are made on most farms during the lifetime of one, or perhaps two owners. The current account tells a more satisfactory story, however. Each year the farm has come nearer to being self-supporting and this year Dr. Wesley fully expects that the farm income will more than balance the farm expenses, exclusive of interest on investment. It will be a really paying business proposition when more of the surplus stock is for sale, and Dr. Wesley's reputation as a Jersey breeder is established. At the present time the proprietor of Black Thorn Heath is quite content to take his dividends in satisfaction, and he claims that in terms of better health and, therefore, in greater ability to pursue his practice, these dividends fully compensate for the money invested in his Jerseys and a home for the Jerseys.



Brampton Merry Prince, Herd Sire at Black Thorn Heath Farm. The dam, Brampton Merry Daisy, has an R. O. P. record of 9,177 lbs. of milk and 58 lbs. of butter fat. His sire is Viola's Bright Prince, the greatest Jersey bull was second at Toronto in 1916—a proof of his individual merit.