

Prairie Home Stock Farm.

The home of Manitoba's former Premier and Minister of Agriculture comprises some 1,600 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of Crystal City, on the Pembina Mountain branch of the Canadian Pacific, 130 miles south-west of Winnipeg, and within 10 or 12 miles of the international boundary line. The country is rolling prairie, well drained and bare of timber, which, however, is fairly abundant a few miles north along the Pembina River and in the country bordering on Rock Lake. Generally speaking, the soil is a strong clay, quite heavy in some sections, and underlying it at various depths is a deposit of slaty shale, in which very good water can be got at from 25 to 80 feet. The town is making substantial growth, many new buildings having been erected within the past year, and the amount of business done has more than doubled. As there is a great deal of excellent land still available for settlement in township 1, ranges 12 and 13, all of which is tributary to Crystal City, the business of the town must rapidly increase. There are now three grain elevators, a flour mill and a creamery. Farming in the district is by no means confined to wheat-growing; mixed farming being generally followed, attention being given to beef cattle, dairying and hog-raising, and large quantities of oats and coarse grains are annually grown. Timothy does remarkably well in some sections.

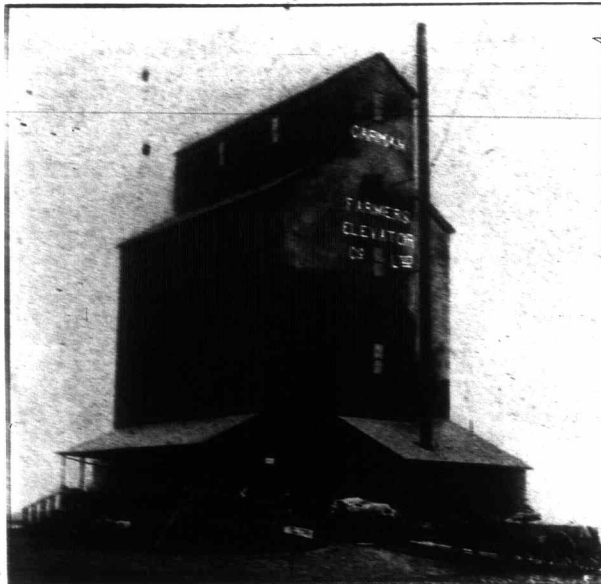
The farm which is immediately under review, that of the Hon. Thomas Greenway, comprises nearly 1,000 acres in the home farm, 600 of which are under cultivation, about half devoted to wheat and the balance to coarse grains and fodders. A hundred acres of breaking was done this year; it is found most satisfactory to break rather deep and work up the rotted sod with the disk harrow, back-setting after taking off one wheat crop. As bare summer-fallowing is liable to produce too rank and slow ripening a crop, barley is grown as a cleaning crop with better results. The land is manured, well plowed and thoroughly cultivated till several crops of weed seeds have been germinated and destroyed, then barley is sown, and an excellent crop always secured of both feed grain and straw, and the succeeding crop of wheat, while not so heavy as after bare fallow, seldom fails to yield well and ripen early. Every pound of manure produced on the farm is put out on the land with most satisfactory results. More attention is being given to growing cultivated grasses with a view to lengthening the pasture season at both ends, as well as to getting root fiber back into the soil of the older fields. Green-cut oat sheaves are largely used for the stock in addition to hay and straw.

Of the farm buildings, which have the appearance of a village in themselves, little need here be said to supplement what is so clearly portrayed in the handsome page illustration in this issue. The Premier's handsome white brick residence occupies a commanding eminence overlooking the town site, and is about a mile from the farm steadings. The ground surrounding the house is being tastefully laid out. At the back of the house is a small stable, 40x28, with 14-foot posts, and adjoining this is a very pretty poultry house, 40x20, divided into five pens, where breeding pens of Plymouth Rocks, Buff Cochins, Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes and Black Langshans are kept by some of the junior members of the family. The Bronze turkeys have a separate house at the rear. Of the farm buildings proper, the newly-erected horse barn to the extreme west is 60x32, with 14-foot posts on stone foundation, having a row of stalls down one side and loose boxes on the other, with large feed loft above. The other horse and cattle barn standing parallel has one row of horse stalls on the upper ground floor, and in the basement two rows of cattle and a row of small boxes for calves. At right angles to these buildings, and forming with them the north side of a square yard 100x60 feet, is a new piggery, 80 feet long by 32 wide, with 14-foot posts on stone foundation, built on the slope of the creek bank; two by six inch studs are used in the walls of this building, and the space between the sheeting filled in with mortar. An 8-foot passage runs through the center lengthwise, with eight 10x12 pens on each side. The floors and gutters are laid in cement throughout; the feeding troughs are also of cement. Elevated sleeping bunks of plank are provided in each pen, and in the loft above bedding is stored. Both Yorkshires and Berkshires are kept, there being about 100 Yorkshires now in the pens, including 10 brood sows and two stock boars, and five Berkshire sows and a boar. The foundation stock has been purchased from the leading breeders of Ontario and Manitoba, and is added to from time to time. Both herds have established enviable records as prizewinners at the leading provincial shows.

A small flock of twenty choice Shropshire ewes is kept on the farm, all being in the pink of condition, with a lamb and a half each to their credit for the past season.

At Prairie Home Farm, however, interest centers chiefly in the Shorthorn herd, which now numbers between sixty and seventy head. Advocate readers have been kept well informed from time to time of the additions made to this herd, and it is only necessary here to name over a few of the most notable members, to show what kind of stuff Manager Yule has to "cumber" with. First on the catalogue stands imp. Missie 112nd (well known in eastern showyards) a pattern of immense scale, with a grand old-fashioned table back, deeply fleshed on ribs and loin. Daisy of Strathallan 12th, with her long string of showyard honors—a deep

red, and, apart from a little gaudiness about the rumps, a marvel of a Shorthorn: such a back and loin, such a spread of rib and fulness of girth and flank, such well-laid shoulders and such swelling bosom and neck veins, and in spite of all the wealth of flesh, a regular breeder. Her stall mate is the twice female champion of the Winnipeg Industrial, Gem of Athelstane, a heifer that, from her hooks forward, would be hard to beat in America. How hard it is to get perfection! In the adjoining stall stands another showing queen both in Ontario and Manitoba—the beautiful, level, thick-fleshed Frieda, by Abbotsford; and next to her the roan two-year-old Jubilee Queen (first as calf and again as yearling at our Industrial), lengthy, smooth, and full of flesh. Of the Village Blossoms, there is Village Flower, a noble big cow, and her daughter, Prairie Flower, by Abbotsford, the first prize calf at the Industrial; Gladness, a massive, thick-fleshed cow of the Canadian Duchess of Gloster family, and several of her progeny. The Lavenders are well represented by Lavender Queen, one of the best of the three great good ones by the Clipper bull Conqueror; the others being Roan Mary, out of imp. Lady Marjory, deservedly one of the chief favorites of the herd, and Starling, a granddaughter of imp. Northern Belle. And still there are many good ones: Laurel, by Prince Albert, one of the level, useful sort; Vanity, by Village Herp—a little patchy, maybe, but a breeder of good ones; Mina Lass, by imp. Golden Crown; Bridle Belle, by Earl of March; and Begonia, by imp. Grandeur. Then among the younger females one could not pass the sweet red two-year-old daughters of Scottish Knight, Violet, Laura, and Blossom, the Constance Cruickshanks topped heifer Eighth Countess of Maple Lodge, and a very promising dark roan heifer, Manitoba Bell, by a son of Abbotsford. Following these is a trio of nice roan calves by the stock bull Judge, out of Mina Lass, Roan Mary, and Crystal Beauty. The bulls in service are the 1895 Winnipeg sweepstakes bull Hillary—18971—, a fine, massive bull, rich in breeding and individuality, and the 1898 sweep-



CARMAN FARMERS' ELEVATOR.

stakes bull Judge—23419—, by imp. Royal Sailor, out of Mildred 4th by Hospodar (imp.), with Challenge—2363— the next sire in line. Judge was the first prize yearling at Toronto in 1897, and first two-year-old at Winnipeg in 1898. He possesses a beautiful head and fore end, with good length, remarkably strong, well-covered loin, long, level quarters, and well-packed thighs. He is strong in his individuality and rich in his breeding, and is proving a sure and impressive sire. As to the condition of the herd, what more need we say than that Manager James Yule is in charge. Throughout Canada Mr. Yule is known as a most skillful feeder and competent judge of Shorthorns.

A small Ayrshire herd is being established, with foundation females from Mr. McCormack's, of Rockton, and Surprise of Burnside—2007—in service. He is a son of imp. Glencairn III., out of the famous Nellie Osborne (imp.), the female champion at the World's Fair, and unbeaten through many a showyard struggle. Surprise headed the calf class at Toronto Industrial in '96 and the yearling class in '97, and at the Winnipeg Industrial in '98 was first prize two-year-old and sweepstakes bull any age. Needless to describe his quality, for he is all quality—an Ayrshire of the Ayrshires.

Carman Farmers' Elevator.

The Carman Farmers' Elevator Co. (limited) was organized in 1891, and began operations same year. The elevator has storage capacity of 60,000 bushels, divided into 16 bins, for the accommodation of farmers wishing to store grain; first class modern equipment throughout. From 100,000 to 350,000 bushels are handled each year, and it is expected this year will exceed any previous one. There is not a dollar of debt on the institution, and for the last four years an average dividend of 10% has been paid. Board of Directors: H. Arling, J. S. Clark, Alex. Morrison, Jas. W. Mann, F. D. Jones, and C. M. Jones. Secretary: J. S. Clark. Manager: A. W. Budge. The elevator is situated at Carman.

Beekeeping as a Branch of Canadian Agriculture.

Since the introduction of the honey-bee into the American continent from its native European home, the occupation of bee husbandry has developed from the keeping of a few swarms in straw skips or the old box hive to a branch of agriculture of great and growing importance. It was some three decades or more ago since the almost simultaneous invention of the modern movable frame hive took place in Germany and in the United States. In the old form of hive the comb was built in an irregular round mass, so to speak, which necessitated the destruction of the same in order to secure its contents. As this was done in the autumn, after the season's honey flow had passed, there was no advantage in preserving the swarm, the destruction of which was the easiest means of securing the stores. By this annual killing of a proportion of the colonies, and the loss of swarms during the summer seasons, an increase of colonies was not much thought of beyond what would supply the family with honey for their table. Following the introduction of the movable frame hive came a development of the apicultural industry, as it made possible the extraction of the combs without their destruction, and the preservation of the bees for the following season's work. The use of hive supers became possible, so that the lower or broad chamber could be left in the autumn sufficiently stored to carry the colony over the winter season. The result has been much larger profits to the intelligent and understanding beekeeper, though the probabilities of expensive blunders were much increased. That studious care and thoroughness was necessary to modern successful beekeeping has been too little observed, with the result that some have engaged in it only to fail and bring disfavor to the avocation. To such the old form of box hive, which required little attention is, perhaps, the best system to follow; that is, on the average farm where a little honey for family use is all that is desired.

The movable frame hive has brought in its train the extractor, the use of comb foundation, and the hundred and one advances whereby the season's product of the colony can be increased.

For a number of years the production of honey has been a fluctuating quantity largely through varying seasons, but it has made a steady increase. By public addresses and the agricultural press bee culture has become more generally understood and engaged in, until honey has become one of the valuable exportable products of Canada and its domestic use largely increased. By reason of the better understanding of the industry, and therefore a more careful manipulation in its prosecution, a gradually improving quality has accompanied the increase. It is also being put up in more attractive and suitable form for the market, which is doing its work in developing the demand. The season just passed has been generally good throughout Canada, which has held the price down rather lower than usual. While this is true, the business has not been less profitable because of the greater cheapening of production which has taken place.

It is encouraging to know that Canadian honey, like many of our other products, stands second to none in the world, which is bound to be recognized to our advantage in the markets of the world in the very near future. We have it that the Lord Mayor of Manchester, England, when he had submitted to him samples of Canadian honey, made the remark that "a country that is capable of producing such honey and some of the other agricultural products he had seen, must be a very desirable portion of the globe in which to pursue the calling of agriculture." Within the last few years shipments of Canadian honey have been made to England, and the price received has compared very favorably with the best Canadian wholesale market figures. The indications are at present that England will soon take a much larger quantity at advanced prices, but she will take only the best quality, and it should be sent in continuous supply the year round.

New Ontario Lands for Settlement.

The estimate of Canadian lands yet available and fit for agricultural settlement given elsewhere by the Dominion Statistician, Mr. George Johnston, applies to Manitoba and the great Northwest, and does not include much desirable territory to be found in Ontario and other Eastern Provinces. In Ontario, for example, leaving out of count areas now being lumbered, and which may be held for re-foresting under the Government's timber land policy, there are several large blocks of land such as that in the Rainy River country, where there are at least 1,000,000 acres. Some good authorities estimate the tract as very much larger, as it probably is. Then there is the Temiscamingue District, having 25 townships surveyed and five open to settlement. The Dryden District, in which is located the successful Wabigoon settlement, has 170,000 acres of arable land, and similar sections at Spanish River, etc. The Ontario Government sent a qualified investigator through the northern districts, and he estimates the available lands at 2,500,000 acres, but he does not include the large territory north of Sudbury that will some day be open. The Crown Lands Surveyor, Mr. Niven, in going from Sudbury to the north, went for 130 miles through a country covered with forest, having all the possibilities of agriculture. We are of opinion that the possibilities of agriculture, even in the province of Ontario, are as yet hardly