

A Diversified Dairy Farm in Oxford County

Mr. J. C. Karn and His Sons Farm 300 Acres of Land and Milk 30 to 40 Cows

SPECIALIZED farming is not yet looked upon with favor in Canada. By "specialized" I mean farming with just one object in view; the milk farmer, for instance, who derives his whole income from the sale of milk, or the poultryman who has nothing to sell but eggs and dressed poultry. The general consensus of opinion seems to be that greater diversity of operations is more profitable. A few weeks ago I dropped off for a few hours at Woodstock, and in company with ex-Dairy instructor, Fred Dean, now manager of the City Dairy milk shipping plant, we took a run out into the country to visit some of the good dairy farms of that district, a district in which good farms are almost the rule, and the dairy cow is in evidence everywhere. "Here," I decided, "I will find specialized dairymen if I am to find them anywhere." But I didn't. One of the best farms we visited, that of J. C. Karn, is typical of the district—and is a diversified farm.

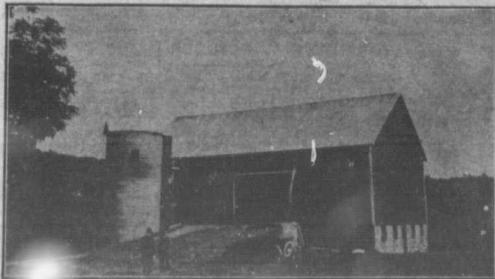
We found Mr. Karn arranging electric light bulbs around the lawn, in preparation for a corn roast that night. He willingly volunteered to show us over his 300-acre farm. Few farms could be more beautifully situated. It is on the highest ground around Woodstock. From the orchard on the far side of the road, we could look across country to the hills beyond Stratford, 35 miles away. Turning to our right, we looked down into the city of Woodstock, with its trees and its parks—one of the most beautiful cities in Canada. From the opposite side of his farm, back through the sugar bush, we had a view of another wide sweep of country. And such country! Mr. Karn proclaimed it the best in Canada, and, while we knew of many splendid farming districts ourselves, we admitted that we know of none that were better than the country stretching away under our gaze. The undulating nature of the land, with its fine trees and its numerous hardwood groves, gives Oxford County a park-like appearance at any season, but it is at its best in the early fall, when the grain is still in the stook and big fields of corn are to be seen in every direction. It was not hard to see why Mr. Karn is proud of Oxford County, and I almost believe that he values his farm quite as much for its position and outlook as for its fertility, loam soil.

A Self-Sustaining Farm.

Of the 300 acres in the farm, about 50 are in timber. The rest is practically all under the plow. Mr. Karn and his two sons are endeavoring to make it as nearly a self-sustaining dairy farm as possible. A large acreage is devoted to spring grains, principally oats, and some fall wheat is grown as a money crop. This year 100 tons of hay were mowed away in the big red barn. The two fields of corn had a combined area of 38 acres. This has not been a particularly good corn season, so it was with considerable satisfaction that Mr. Karn conducted us back to see one of his 20-acre fields. It was then early in September, and the corn stood 10 feet high, all over the field. It was check-rowed, cultivated both ways, and therefore

free from weeds. "We have cultivated our corn six times this season," Mr. Karn informed us, "and have maintained a fine dust mulch from first to last."

"I suppose you use a two-row cultivator and keep it going most of the season in the corn,"



The Big Dairy Barn and one of the Cement Silos.

There is a long "elf" at the back which makes the barn of J. C. Karn & Sons larger than it appears in front. There are tin-uses for 37 head. The two silos are each 14 by 37½ feet, inside measurements.

I suggested.

"No, we use two riding cultivators," said Mr. Karn, "and we keep them both going when the corn needs cultivating."

"What feed do you buy?"

"With abundance of ensilage and good clover hay, along with oat chop, it is seldom that we need to buy feed at all," was the reply. "This year we have 100 tons of hay in the barn, we will have at least 20 tons of green corn to the acre, and we never had a bigger crop of spring grains.



A Part of the Dairy Herd in a Picturesque Setting.

Mr. Karn milks 30 to 40 cows and plans on a uniform flow the year round; likewise a uniformly large milk cheque. This photo was taken by an editor of Farm and Dairy in the lane back of the barn seen above.

Our idea is to grow all that we feed and feed practically all that we grow."

All the grain on the farm was in stook at the time of our visit. Mr. Karn and three of his neighbors have a local power ring, which owns a 25 h.p. electro motor and, with hydro-electric energy, they do all of their threshing and silo filling together. The neighbors draw the grain directly from the field to the threshing machine and both operations, drawing in and threshing, are completed at the same time. "With the help problem as it is," said Mr. Karn, "we could not get our work done at all did neighbors not cooperate with each other. We have all the modern

labor-saving equipment and we need it all to get the work done."

The Buildings.

By this time we were back to the buildings. We first visited the milk house. Here a two horse-power electric motor was pumping very cold water from a drilled well 385 feet deep. The water is first pumped to the house. From the tank in the house it runs back to the milk cooling tank in the milk house and from the milk tank to the stables. The stables, like all the other buildings on the place, are illuminated with electricity. A five horse-power motor grinds the grain and runs the milking machine. There is room in the two long rows of stalls to fit up 57 head of cattle and 30 to 40 cows are always milking. "We aim to produce about the same amount of milk the year round," said Mr. Karn, "as we like to have our income equalized over the whole year." The cows are good Holstein grades, the most of them being reared on the place.

The silos are conveniently situated, one at each end of the central feeding alley. Both are of solid concrete and 14 x 37½ feet inside measurement. The gravel for these silos was dug out of a pit on the farm, and one cost \$150 and the other \$160 to construct. They were built, however, when cement and labor were both much cheaper than they are to-day. The milking machine has been in operation for four or five years and was enthusiastically voted the greatest labor saver on the farm. "If we had to do without it we would go out dairying altogether," said Mr. Karn, emphatically.

The big substantial farm house, surrounded by fine lawns and trees, is equipped with every modern convenience that goes with electric power and running water. The Karns have a beautiful home and a fine farm in a good locality. Surely it is a goodly heritage, and it is one that is fully appreciated by both Mr. Karn and his boys.—F. E. E.

How Much Water for a Cow?

It Depends on the Amount of Milk She Gives

By Geo. W. Larnes.

THE amount of water required to produce milk will depend to a large degree upon the cow, her size, the kind of feed fed, the amount of milk she is producing, the weather conditions—whether it is hot or cold, rainy or dry—and many other things which may arise to increase or decrease the consumption of water. For this reason it would not be wise to say that we would allow the cow only 30 pounds of water per day, or 50 pounds, for instance. It would be decidedly more advisable to give them free range to pure fresh water, and they will take care of the number of pounds needed.

Professor Ekles of Missouri, found by experiments that a cow producing 27 pounds of milk per day drank 77 pounds of water. The same animal, when dry, drank only 15 pounds per day. Another cow, producing over 100 pounds of milk per day, used during the testing period an average of 250 pounds of water. The study of these figures shows that the water requirement is about 2 1/2 pounds of water for every pound of milk