

Some of the Individual Excellencies of each farm entered in the Interprovineial Prize Farms Competition described by an Editor of Farm and Dairy who accompanied the Judges on their rounds

T is all round excellence that wins for a farm a high placing in competitions such as Farm and Dairy has been conducting for the last four years. In our great Interprovincial Prize Farms Competition just completed every point about the farm from the weeds on the roadside to the character of the buildings and the quality of the stock was considered point by point. It

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would be quite possible with such careful scoring for the man with the finest home and the best cm buildings to be at the foot of the competition. It is also possible that the best dairy herd might be found on the poorest farm,-though this is very unlikely.

It was this high average of excellent that gave to the farm of Mr. R. R. Ness, Howick, Que., the position he obtained in the competition. A study of the extended score card, published herewith, shows that Mr. Ness was highest in several departments, including the important ones, of buildings, live stock, crops and management. We doubt if there is a farm in all Canada that could make such a good showing in a farms competition as did that of Mr. Ness. A full description of this fine farm will be given in the special Exhibition Number of Farm and Dairy coming out August 29. An editor of Farm and Dairy who accompanied the judges on their rounds, noted many points of excellence on the farms of other competitors. In individual points several competitors scored higher than Mr. Ness.

WHERE ALFALFA IS CROWNED

A point which particularly attracted our attention on the farm of J. W. Richardson, Caledonia, Ontario, the first prize farm in Ontario, was the large acreage of alfalfa. Mr Richardson grows an average of 80 acres of this crop. It has lifted him from poverty (almost) to affluence.

"I started about 45 years ago with a barren place," said Mr. Richardson. "The people who had it before me couldn't pay the taxes. There were no buildings worth mentioning on the first farm purchased. Alfalfa has been our salvation. We were among the first to sow lucerne; that was 35 or 40 years ago. We have steadily increased our acreage of this crop. We believe it will do for others what it has done for us."

The pride of Riverside Farm at the present

time is their splendid herd of Holstein cattle. The farm home, which would be outstanding on a city square, and which scored highest of any of the homes on any of the prize farms, is also a point in which the R'chardson's may well take pride. But the thing that gave them their start was alfalfa, and they are glad to testify to the merits of this crop.

GOOD CROPS ON A GOOD FARM

Mr. W. A. Paterson, of Agincourt, the first prize farmer in district No. 4 last year, has crops that "fill the eye." The grass profinised a good three tons to the acre. The grain was extra such as is seen on very few farms. There may have been a little twitch and a small sprinkling of sow thistle, but these were the worst faults. The mangels were the best that we saw anywhere, and the corn also was making a good start. The soil on Mr. Paterson's farm is particularly good, and this may account in some degree for the quality of the crops. A bigger factor is the thorough cultivation that they receive, and the fact that practically all of the raw material produced on the farm is fed on the farm and returnto the soil. Mr. Paterson has an excellent herd of pure-bred Holstein cows that can manufacture his produce with a maximum of profit. In the fall he makes a practice of buying in a few steers to eat up the feed that the dairy cows cannot, and this all adds to the fertility of the soil. Mr. Paterson also is careful in collecting only the best of seed. He follows a regular rotation of crops, in which heed crop and clover find a frequent place.

MACHINERY FINDS LARGE USE

"Don't do anything by human power that can be done just as well by machinery," says R. E. Gunn, of Beaverton, and he puts his precept into practice. His dairy herd, numbering from 60 to 125 cows, is milked by machinery, the power that does the work being electricity. A portable electric motor also furnishes the energy to cut the corn that fills the silo, to chop the grain and cut feed. In the dairy (Mr. Gunn produces certified milk and cream) is a cream separator run by steam power. The boiler which furnishes this power also provides the steam to boil water, sterilize milk cans and so forth. A hydraulic

ram pumps the water that is used in the house and barn. In the fields we found a hay loader, a side delivery rake, two row cultivators and gang plows. "It's the only way that you can run a farm nowadays with help as high as it is," commented Mr. Gunn.

Mr. S. A. Northcott, of Taunton, Ontario, is one of the young men who is "getting there." From time to time Mr. Northcott tells of his experiences in farming in Farm and Dairy. One of the points that he has often emphasized is the value, in fact the necessity, of a short regular rotation of crops if we would make the most of our land. And Mr. Northcott practices what he preaches. He could not well have a shorter rotation than he himself f lows, viz. : Hoe crop, grain seeded down to clover, hay one year, then corn again

Mr. Northcott has followed this three-year rotation for several years. He is tearing out fences and making his fields larger in order that the rotation may be carried out with a minimum of expense. He has recently erected a second silo to house a portion of his large corn crop. A few sow thistles were seen on this farm, but with a rotation such as Mr. Northcott practices he will not be long in getting rid of them. Sow thistles and rotations do not thrive together. We will not here tell more of the numerous advantages that Mr. Northcott claims for his short rotation, as in an early issue of Farm and Dairy he will tell all about it himself.

A FINE ORCHARD IN QUEBEC

There is a general impression abroad that the climate and soil of Quebec are not adapted to fruit growing. On the farm of Mr. Alex. Younie, in the famous Howick district, however, we found a productive orchard where apples and cherries grow to perfection. Mr. Younie's orchard was on the highest land on his farm, where also are his buildings, and was sheltered by a fine grove of elms. The smaller fruits too are found on Mr. Younie's farm.

Another feature that attracted particular attention was the fine apiary which is conducted by one of Mr. Younie's sons. This present season they have 94 colonies in Langstroff hives. Their extracting room is well equipped with all necessary machinery. Here are two sources of revenue, the orchard and the apiary, that are not usually found on Quebec farms.

WHAT PURE-BRED STOCK HAS DONE Mr. John Logan, at Sunnyside Farm, is well-

The Extended Scores of the Prize-Winning Farms entered in our Interprovincial Dairy Farms Prize Competition

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