

National  
Exhibited side  
der.  
n, and J. M.  
much stronger  
as in previous  
ere largely illu  
nt importation  
however, want  
ing Clyde clas  
itors were:  
Hodgkington &  
assard, T. H.  
Hamilton, Simson  
and W. G. H.

# FARM AND DAIRY

## & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas.

The Recognized Expert in Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country, but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

Vol. XXXIV

PETERBORO, ONT., SEPTEMBER 9, 1915

No. 36

## Anson Groh: The Man and His Farm

The Manager of the United Farmers' Cooperative Co., Ltd., is an Unusually Successful Dairy Farmer.—By F. E. Ellis.

ANSON GROH is a man of parts. Those who may be drawn by curiosity or genuine interest to the headquarters of The United Farmers' Cooperative Company Limited, at 100 Church St., Toronto, will there meet Anson Groh, the man of business. The alert looking little man at the desk by the window is the president and manager of this great farmers' cooperative movement. The business that he now superintends amounts to over 1,000 a day. His customers are farmers' clubs in every corner of the province of Ontario. Anson Groh has been a leading spirit in the United Farmers' movement from its inception and is serving an able president and capable manager.

Few years things had gone so well with the Grohs that the old barns were torn down and new ones built. At the end of another few years, the old house was put on rollers and brought out in line with the barn. So thoroughly had it been renovated and modernized that when I visited the farm the latter part of last May, I took it for granted that the Grohs had built a new house. With these two main building operations complete, the farm began to assume the thrifty and prosperous look for which its proprietor had been striving.

half of the remaining hundred is workable. Even with this responsibility taken off their hands, however, the Grohs still have 150 acres of workable land to care for.

To start with little capital and end up in 30 years with 335 acres of land all paid for, is a man-sized job. When the executive of The United Farmers' Cooperative Company Limited, began to look around among their number for a man with the business acumen to care for a growing cooperative enterprise, is it any wonder that Anson Groh was their choice? His acceptance of the position, however, meant that he had to spend practically all of his time in the city of Toronto, and the responsibility for the direction of the farm has fallen upon his son, Herbert, the oldest boy, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, and for some time assistant to the Dominion Entomologist at Ottawa. Herbert now has settled down to the life of a practical farmer, and it was he who showed me over the farm and told me of their farming methods.

But in the meantime the family had been increasing and 80 acres of workable land is not



Farm Home of the Manager of the United Farmers' Cooperative Co., Ltd.

This is the home as it looks today. When Anson Groh purchased the farm 20 years ago it was an old frame shack standing some rods from its present site and behind the barn. Like the rest of the farm and farm buildings, the home has been improved past recognition.—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

But in this capacity, Mr. Groh has not yet served a full year. His reputation was made as an Institute lecturer long before the idea of the United Farmers' Company was conceived in the minds of a few of Ontario's public-spirited farmers. There are few sections of Ontario where from the Institute platform, Mr. Groh has not made plain the mysteries of carbohydrates and protein and why the combination of these two in an economical, home-grown dairy ration of corn silage and alfalfa hay is so desirable. His success in the platform was due to his practical style. He did not elaborate text book theories. He told simply of the methods that had brought him success on his own farm in Waterloo Co., Ont. It was at one of these Institute meetings that I first met the energetic little farmer from Waterloo. But if one would really know Anson Groh, they must visit the old farm in his home county, where for 30 years he toiled to buy and pay for a farm, raised and educated a large family and still found time to devote to every worthy community enterprise.

From 95 Acres to 335

The original farm purchased by Mr. Groh 30 years ago, consisted of 95 acres. Only 50 were capable of being brought under cultivation. Fifty acres is not a big farm, but it was big enough for one man and his wife. The old frame house back of the barn, almost a quarter of a mile from the public highway? Neither house nor barn are in good repair. In fact the barn was not even a respectable apology for a store, and feed shed. The difficult problem of building up that farm was tackled with all the vigor, accompanied by all the thrift, that are characteristic people of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction. In a

enough to profitably occupy a large and growing family. A 200-acre farm down the road was rented. Then it was put on the market so cheaply that Mr. Groh did not believe he could refuse to buy it. The farm was badly run down through a quarter of a century of renting and cropping, but on it were a fair set of buildings. That was 12 years ago. A small farm of two properties now owned by Mr. Groh, was held by his uncle. It too came on the market and as it lay between the two farms already owned, it was purchased. Thus it was that the holdings of the Groh family today total 335 acres. They own all the land along one side of the road for one and one-half miles. A son-in-law has rented the front hundred of the biggest farm of the three and only

The farm could not well be more conveniently situated in regard to markets. There are six cities and towns within easy reach. It is just three miles to Galt, one and one-half to Hespeler, one to Preston, 10 to Guelph and Berlin, and 12 to Waterloo. The soil is mainly a sandy loam with a gravelly sub-soil. Such a soil is not usually rated very high. "Perhaps not," admitted Herbert Groh, "but it is a soil on which we are sure of a crop every year. I would rather work this soil than one running to the other extreme. It is easy to till, as good for corn as any, but not particularly adapted to wheat."

The lay-out of the farm is in 17-acre fields, all square and all well fenced. The farms when first purchased, were laid out irregularly and inconveniently. Particularly was this true of the 200 acre farm. The work of rearranging the fields has now been practically completed, however, and the following systematic rotation facilitated. This rotation calls for two years of hay, two years of grain and one of clover crop, the latter of corn, roots and rape. Eighteen acres are in alfalfa, but this is outside the rotation altogether. Thus does Mr. Groh follow in practice what he has so long contended for on the Institute platform, lots of corn and lots of alfalfa for the dairy herd.

The silo accommodation on the various farms