



Tractors must have pedigrees before they will be used on Crystal Spring Farm where everything is pure-bred.

## How a Young Farmer Broke Into Pure Breds

The Story of D. A. McPhee, Giving Methods Which Have Brought Him Success

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CAREFUL buying, careful breeding, careful feeding—these have brought success in his work with pure bred to D. A. McPhee, of Vankleek Hill. Donald is a young farmer who went into pure bred carefully and built up his herd, as contrasted with the "millionaire" breeder who gathers together a herd by virtue of his large bank account. For this reason Donald has never bought much high priced stuff, preferring to buy quality stock while yet in the calf stage, and by generous feeding raise up something that will be a credit to his stables.

Fifteen years ago Mr. McPhee took over from his father the management of Crystal Spring Farm. At that time mixed farming was carried on with a stock of grade animals. Dairying was the most important line. Donald, on taking up the reins of government, conceived the idea of building up a pure bred herd of cows and selecting Holsteins as his breed he purchased a pure bred bull calf from Matt Richardson of Caledonia. With the purchase two years later of a pure bred heifer from the same source he laid the foundation for his present herd. In the spring of 1916 he held a dispersion sale of 80 pure bred to put him on the map as a Holstein breeder. With a start of 50 pure bred already in his stables he is laying the foundation for a bigger and better Holstein herd than ever.

### The Home of the Herd.

Crystal Spring Farm is situated two miles west of Vankleek Hill. It is a goodly estate, comprising in all 320 acres, 100 of which are cultivated. This leaves plenty of pasture for the live stock farming which is carried on, and this abundance of pastures is one of the factors which have made Crystal Spring Farm a prosperous one. The cultivated area is in fine till and much of it is underdrained. "Our yields per acre have doubled during the last 15 years," said Mr. McPhee as we drove back along the lane that runs through his farm. "This is due largely to the increased number of live stock kept and to the increased fertilizing value of the manure, resulting from the feeding of concentrates to the stock."

Yes, Crystal Spring Farm is a big, comfortable homestead with a big, comfortable home and big, comfortable barns flanked by two 16x30 foot silos. The visitor is at once struck by the neatness of the yards and buildings

and the conveniences enjoyed by the workers. From a never-failing spring on a small hill near the buildings, crystal pure water is piped to the barns, dairy and house. The water thus flows through all the buildings all the time, and it is from this supply that the farm takes its name. The cattle barns are equipped with a two double-unit milker which, by the way, Mr. McPhee considers indispensable in present day dairying. And between the house and barn is a commodious dairy where the milk is cooled by running water, and in which the gasoline engine used to operate the milker also runs an electric generator supplying, through the medium of 41 bulbs, light to the house and all the farm buildings.

### A Start With Pure Breds.

The foundation for the Crystal Spring Holstein herd was laid 15 years ago when Donald McPhee purchased a pure bred bull calf for use on his grade herd. This first bull was kept four years, and although he was used on a herd of grade Ayrshires the 42 head of stock from him were all black and white. This gave Mr. McPhee the idea of establishing a herd of pure bred Holsteins. Two years after the first sire had been purchased two more calves were bought from the Richardson herd. One of these was a bull calf, a son of Johanna Rue 4th Lad, and under Mr. McPhee's management at four years of age he won first in a strong class at the Central Canada Exhibition. The heifer, Spinky Clothilde DeKol, was the

foundation cow on which Mr. McPhee's pure bred herd was built. This cow at 14 years of age made an R. O. M. record of 22.34 lbs. butter and 495.3 lbs. milk.

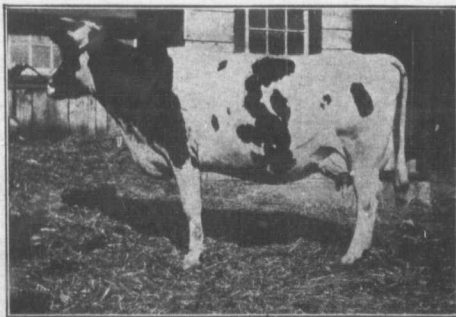
The method by which Mr. McPhee built up his pure bred herd was by buying his stuff young and developing it himself. He has made it a practice to always keep the best herd sire he could possibly afford, and with his ideal of a fine type Holstein showing plenty of quality and dairy conformation, he has built up a herd which may be spotted anywhere by those who know his stuff. Mr. McPhee has kept closely in touch with sales of Holsteins and has often picked up something very good at a moderate cost. He buys according to the type he has fixed in mind, takes his stuff home and gives it a chance to show what it can do in test. Any cow not coming up to his ideal from the producing end must get out.

In this connection it is interesting to know that Mr. McPhee bought Jessie DeKol of Crystal Spring while young for \$40. A couple of years ago, while he was preparing another heifer for the R. O. M. test, Jessie freshened. The two heifers stood side by side in the stable. They were the same age—four years old. It occurred to Mr. McPhee that he might as well have Jessie tested at the same time the other test was being made. To his surprise she gave in the seven-day test 29.57 lbs. butter from 53.7 lbs. milk with a test running up to 5 per cent. fat. Because of this test Mr. McPhee was able to realize for her at the dispersion sale \$690. "Had it not been for the test," said Mr. McPhee, "Jessie would have sold for \$150. There is nothing like the official test to show us what we have in our stables."

### Methods That Brought Success.

Mr. McPhee has always believed in generous feeding from the time the calf is dropped until the aged cow finds her way to the butcher. As he ships his milk to Montreal he is like many other breeders, chary of feeding whole milk to his calves. Such a system would make his stock very expensive to raise. But the calves do not go without their milk. Grade milkers are bought in the spring to act as nurse cows. One or two calves are put on each milker and they are all put out on pasture. In this way the calves keep growing right ahead

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Jessie DeKol of Crystal Spring.

A good advertisement for the official test. She was bought as a youngster for \$40, and on the strength of her 29.5 test, sold as a 4-year-old for \$690.