

# FARM AND DAIRY

## & RURAL HOME

The Recognized Authority of Dairying in Canada.

1917] We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

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.

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### Farming in the Bedford District of Quebec

French and English Speaking Farmers Live Side by Side and the Dairy Cow is the Mainstay of Both.—By F. E. Ellis

QUEBEC is the oldest province in the Dominion of Canada. Separated, however, from the people of the other provinces by both the race and the language of her inhabitants, we hear less of her people and industries than their importance would warrant. The most of us never give Quebec agriculture a thought, except in the fall fair season when Quebec Ayrshires have the habit of carrying off most of the prize money at our greatest fairs and Quebec buttermakers monopolize the first six or eight places in the creamery butter classes at all of our important exhibitions. Then we give Quebec credit for what she has done, and straightway forget about her.

I myself once held to the too prevalent idea that Quebec is hopelessly backward in her agriculture and that no good thing could come out of Quebec. It took a couple of visits to the Chateaugay district to convince me that Quebec had at least one section in which her farms and farmers rank with the best that Canada can show. A few weeks ago I visited another farm district, and what I saw in the two counties of Missisquoi and Bromes, which compose part of what is known as the Bedford district, compelled me to again revise my preconceived notion of Quebec and its agriculture. In Bedford, as in every other district of every other province, I found poor farms and indifferent farmers. But I also found a goodly proportion of progressive, intelligent men whose farms spoke eloquently of good management and whose buildings bespoke the prosperity that goes with well-conducted dairying. I am still of the opinion that too much of the province depends on hay as the main money crop, and that all such sections are necessarily backward in farming methods. But there are certain sections scattered here and there, which prove



The Home of One of the More Progressive French-Canadian Farmers of the Bedford District.

As a general rule French Canadians are not so progressive as their English speaking neighbors. There are exceptions. The attractive home, here illustrated, is that of Chas. Paradis, who farms 200 acres of land, milks 20 cows, mostly Jerseys, and ships cream to Montreal.

the possibilities of old Quebec, where intelligent management is given.

The dairy cow reigns as queen in the Bedford district. A few decades ago general farming was followed, which means that the farmers produced a little of everything and not much of anything. Shorthorn cattle were common. Then creameries and cheese factories were established. Cattle of dairy breeding proved their worth, and to-day practically all of the cows of the district are either pure-breeds or grades of one or the other of the specialized milk breeds. For the last 15 or 20 years diversified farming has been the rule, with dairying the main line on at least 60 per cent. of the farms. On the farms which I visited the lighter breeds of cattle—Ayrshires, Jerseys, and in some sections Guernseys—were favored,

the preference being due to the nature of the country.

The soil in the Bedford district is productive. I saw there as good fields of grain and clover as I have seen anywhere in Ontario this spring. The thing that impressed me most, however, was the immense amount of human labor required to bring the farms up to their present standard of excellence. On every farm visited in the district save one, men and teams were busy pulling out boulders and carting them away. Not an acre of land had been brought under cultivation without much hard labor. As is usual in districts such as this, the farms are large, but with only a small proportion of their total area under the plow. Among the farms that I visited around Cowansville, for instance, that of Geo. Beach had 320 acres total area and only 76 acres cultivated. On this small cultivated area, however, all of the rough feed and part of the grain feed was produced for 65 head of cattle and nine horses. Of the 150 acres of Charles Rutter & Sons, only about 60 is under the plow. On the neighboring farm of Geo. Ford, 318 acres are owned and 150 cultivated. This is an unusually high percentage of land under cultivation. Watson Eros, at Dunham, informed me that of their 300 acres, only 76 to 80 was under cultivation, and this, I believe, is a fair average for the district.

#### Good Grazers Wanted

With so much rough land, the first requirement that a popular dairy breed must have is that the cows be good grazers. Ayrshires are considered the ideal grazers by many, and they are popular all through the Bedford district. No live stock census has been taken, but men well acquainted with conditions throughout the three counties informed me that there were probably as many



A Type of Barn That is Common and Popular in All Sections of Quebec.

The big barn on the farm of Watson Bros., in the Bedford District of Quebec, is three stories high. The lowest floor is used as a stable; the highest, right up in the roof, is the drive floor, from which all hay and grain can be unloaded downwards into the deep bays on either side. This arrangement, very convenient before the days of the modern unloading fork, is not so desirable now.