

### The History of Riverside Farm\*

J. W. Richardson, Haldimand Co., Ont.

The first 100 acres of "Riverside Farm" was purchased about 40 years ago by Mr. M. Richardson, who started with a capital of \$1,000. The land was badly run down from the continuous cropping of wheat and barley.

Pine stumps and Canadian thistles were plentiful. It was soon discovered that continually growing grain for sale was not profitable.

In a few years the adjoining farms were offered for sale and were purchased. These farms had been farmed in much the same way as had the first purchase, and had become unprofitable to their owners. As the additional land was purchased, the stock and equipment was increased. The prices for beef cattle fluctuated a great deal, and dropped very low, and for some years the dairy end of the business kept the farm going. At this time a considerable mortgage stood against the place; it was to lift this mortgage that we decided to specialize our business, and put it on a more profitable basis. After careful consideration all through we were satisfied that there was a profit from the steers. In enriching the soil we found that a good dairy cow paid a good dividend over her keep during the season, and afterwards we still had the cow to go on with to do business for eight or 10 years.

#### CHANGED OVER FROM BEEF

To find out our profitable cows we commenced to weigh the milk once or twice a week during the season, and to test the milk for butter fat. In this way we found out that a large number of our cows were kept at a loss. We therefore concluded, to cut out the beef cattle, and to select a special breed of dairy cattle. We purchased a Holstein-Friesian bull, and began weeding out and grading up our herd. Our aim was to have an 8,000 pound cow. Several were producing from 3,000 to 4,000 lbs. of milk in a season; they milked well for a month or two, then went short. These cows were generally beefy and good lookers.

We found that we received such good results from our grade Holsteins as they came in, that we decided to lay a foundation herd of pure bred Holstein-Friesian cattle. This we did by buying from reliable Canadian and American breeders. We went further and had our females officially tested for milk and butter fat. All our females now are either in the Record of Merit or are daughters of R. of M. cows.

Our aim has been to build up the fertility of the soil, to keep better and more profitable stock, to lower the cost of production on products sold from the farm, to conserve the bush land, to protect and plant ornamental and shade trees, to secure an abundance of pure water, and to have comfortable and pleasant surroundings in our home and good accommodation for our stock.

#### ALFALFA THE MAINSTAY

Alfalfa has been a great fertility builder on our farm. We sowed it first over 30 years ago. The first seeding was not very successful, but of late years alfalfa has been the mainstay in the cheap feeding of our dairy cattle. The first silo built in Haldimand County was built on our farm. It is still in use, and two additional ones have been built. Mangels are grown in large quantities. They increase the flow of milk, and they go a long way towards keeping the stock healthy. Hogs are fed profitably in connection with the dairy. They receive roots, alfalfa chaff, and meal in winter, and clover pasture and the run of the orchard in the summer.

Fall wheat is grown and the grain sold. We use the chaff for feeding stock, and the straw for

\*This article is one of the essays written by Mr. Richardson, as required of him by the rules of the Dairy Farm Competition. Last year Mr. Richardson's farm won first for his district. This year it was second in the competition amongst the winners of last year the province over.

feeding. All oats, barley and mixed grains are fed on the farm. Bran, shorts, oil meal, and linseed are purchased when required. More or less timothy hay is sold when grown, as the fall wheat land is seeded down with red clover and timothy. Alfalfa seed is grown to some extent, when we have plenty of feed without the second cutting of alfalfa for hay or we do not require it for pasture.

The farm has been enlarged since the first

purchase by the Sr. Mr. Richardson over 40 years ago, to the 350 acres entered in the dairy farms competition. An additional 170 acres has been added and a new stock barn erected this past summer. Three phones are in use on the farm, and a natural gas well has been drilled on the farm at our own expense. Gas has been secured for heat, light, and power. The success at "Riverside" has been largely due to the hearty co-operation of all the members of the family.

### A WORLD'S FAMOUS AYRSHIRE HERD

The history of a Canadian Breeder of Ayrshire Cattle. Comments on Ayrshires in Scotland. The Hunter & Sons' importations.



Mr. Robt. Hunter

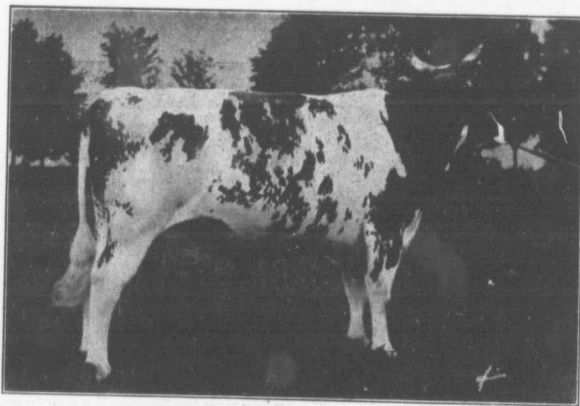
this popular breed of dairy cattle, in the world.

Some five years ago the ill health of Mr. Hunter, Sr., led to their deciding to hold a dispersion sale. This took place in the fall of 1905. The

AFTER disposing of one noted herd of cattle to acquire an even better one in the course of only a few years is something that but few breeders could accomplish. It has been done, however, by Robert Hunter & Sons, of Maxville, Ont., whose herd of pure bred Ayrshire cattle is one of the most noted herds of

coaster, Mass., again established a world's record. They consigned 11 animals to the sale which sold at an average of \$475, the highest price paid being \$1,100 and the next highest \$675. Six of their 11 animals sold for higher prices than any others offered at the sale at which 98 animals were sold from the herds of seven other large breeders and many small ones. These prices excel those ever recorded for Ayrshires at any similar sale held either on this continent or in Great Britain. In fact it is probable that they have tended to stiffen the prices of Ayrshire cattle in the Old Country as never before have such high prices been asked for good Ayrshires as those that have prevailed in Scotland this year. Another factor has been the presence in Scotland of buyers from the United States and Australia, both of which countries are importing many Ayrshires.

Further evidence of the success the Messrs. Hunter have met with in their new herd was furnished last fall when they were the principal



One of the Two Bulls that Head a Famous Herd of Ayrshires

Levenscock Durward Lily (imp.) here illustrated, is out of the highest record cow in Scotland. He along with the animal illustrated on page 2, heads the Spring hill herd, owned by Robert Hunter & Sons, Maxville, Ont. Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

great reputation of the herd drew buyers from far and near and led to prices being paid at public auction that had never been equalled at such a sale either in Scotland, the home of the Ayrshires, or on this continent. The prices then paid have not since been surpassed at a dispersion sale. The average price paid for 47 head of stock was \$272.50. The top price was \$700. This was paid for the herd bull.

Later, Mr. Hunter's health improved. Both he and his sons felt lost without a herd of their favorite cattle. It was decided to establish another herd. This they have succeeded in doing. How successful they have been is best shown by the fact that last June, stock, of their importation, sold by auction at a consignment sale in Wor-

winners in the Ayrshire classes at the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. Their winnings included the herd and female championships while the champion bull was one that they had imported for another breeder. They also took first and second in aged cows, second on three-year old cows, first and fourth on two year olds, first in senior yearlings and first in both classes for senior and junior calves. At the Seattle Exposition their winnings included the junior female championship, the reserve and grand championship as well as first in two year old heifers, first on senior yearling and third on cows, the highest place taken by any eastern breeder. They did equally well in the male and herd classes.

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