

In Training for Future Responsibilities

Sons of Prominent Breeders Who Are Laying the Foundation of Future Success

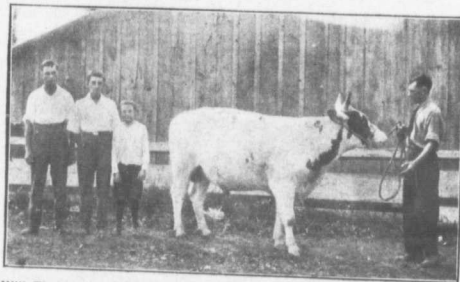
"OUR sons." What a pride parents feel in the young chaps as they develop in knowledge and stature. Their lives fairly centre around the lads. They want to give them the best of opportunities for development. Perhaps they desire to spare them much of the hard and rocky road that they themselves had to travel to attain the independence they now enjoy. Perhaps in their desire to spare their children, they are not altogether wise. Too much hard work is never to be commended; it would dull the brightest intellect and is the surest way to kill all ambition and initiative. A moderate amount of work however, is good for the boys, and a certain amount of responsibility is necessary to their best development. Where can we find the happy medium between too much work and too little, and just how much responsibility should the growing boy be allowed? This little story has to do with the families of a couple of Our Folks wherein the boys are given the responsibility for certain parts of the business according to age and talents; such responsibility as is the birthright of every Canadian boy and girl.

Our first illustration we will take from the old province of Quebec, where R. R. Ness has developed one of the finest herds of Ayrshire cattle on the continent, and has around him a fine bunch of growing boys. Earl, the eldest, has always been interested in his father's valuable herd, and particularly in their preparation and treatment for and on the showing circuit. When 14 years old Earl went as assistant to Wm. Gibson on a tour of the western Canada Fairs. The education and experience gleaned on this trip has enabled him to take complete charge of this well known exhibition herd ever since. This is no small responsibility, as the animals are worth thousands of dollars, and require the most expert care, that they may always be at their best when brought out before the Judge. It means much in time, work and ability to see and execute the things which have to be done without referring them to other shoulders. The success that has followed the Burnside herd at the leading Canadian exhibitions is the best evidence of Earl's successful management.

For further proof of the ready response of boys to this training, the case of Earl's two brothers

might be cited. On one occasion it was impossible for Earl to get away to take the herd to Valleyfield Fair. Bruce and Douglas, 15 and 11 years, respectively, made the entries and took a carload of animals to this show, with the result that most of the prizes came their way. In speaking of the younger boy, the father said, "He is more useful at the shows than a maa, because he is so interested." These boys now have almost complete charge of the herd and each own some choice young animals in their own right.

Travelling over much the same annual show



Will Their Names be Written Large in Ayrshire History of the Future? They are making a good start. Holding a show Ayrshire that he had fitted himself is Earl Ness. The other three lads, from left to right, are Willie Hume and Bruce and Douglas Ness. They are in training for future responsibilities as the adjoining article abundantly testifies.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

route of the larger fairs as the Ness herd, is another Ayrshire herd in competition with them, which is managed by the younger members of the family. In 1906, Thomas Hume, son of Alex. Hume, Northumberland Co., Ont., went with his father for one week on the Ontario show circuit. The following year the second boy Willie, had his turn with the herd. For several years these two boys were with the herd for part of or for the whole circuit, picking up things of value and learning the business from end to end. In 1914, when they were 18 and 16 years old, they took entire charge of the herd at several of the leading shows, including the Winter Fair at Guelph. That same season, Thomas, the elder, took three cows to Ottawa Winter Fair and won first, second and third prizes in their respective classes. Since then the boys have been responsible for most of

the show work, and in the absence of the father and one son at the shows, the other boy has added responsibility of the farm at home. This last autumn, Thomas, who is sergeant in the 255th battalion, was not able to follow the herd, but Willie, now 18 years old, took charge, with the assistance of a cousin, R. N. Bissonnette, 16 years old, who had been helping for the last three years. The animals they showed won several championships at Toronto, including the herd championship.

The question might be asked if the risk was not great in allowing boys so young to control and manage animals so valuable? In answer to this, let me quote Mr. Hume, who wrote to Farm and Dairy on this point: "I had no fear but that they would manage all right." This confidence in

their sons' ability must be a great fund of comfort and pleasure to the parents, especially so when they realize that the business for which they have fought, worked and denied themselves, is going into the hands of their own lads with every prospect that under their management it will not only maintain the high standards of the past, but, better still, establish new ones.

Ayrshires in Quebec

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THREE years ago I ran to Montreal with a touring party by motor car. We passed through Howick, Ormatown, etc., and I am prone to think that I never saw better farming country. I certainly never, no, not even in the best districts of my own state, saw such splendid buildings and such general evidences of prosperity. The farm buildings were generally painted. The fences were good. I did not need to be told that it was a dairy country. Such prosperity is found nowhere else. And being of Scotch descent, I was more than pleased to hear that it was an Ayrshire country.

At Howick I got in conversation with a young chap who readily confessed to being a farmer and an Ayrshire breeder. "Yes," he said, "Ayrshires are what put this place on the map. We have sold stock to go all over America. We send carloads of grade Ayrshires, to dairy farms in the U. S. Ayrshires have lifted the mortgages from our farms, built our home and given the most of us a competence."

Now, what do you know about that! Talk about confidence in a breeder! And, say, isn't confidence in our line, whether it be hardware or cattle, one of the principles of success?



A Typical Pasture Scene in a District where Good Ayrshires and Lots of Them are the Rule—the Chateauguay District, Quebec.

—Photo on farm of Jno Logan, Howick, Que.