

# FARM AND DAIRY

&

## RURAL HOME

### A BRIEF SKETCH OF SOME WORTH-WHILE THINGS ON A FIRST PRIZE FARM

**A Western Ontario Farm, Which Through Good Management, as Reviewed in This Article, Won First Prize For Its District in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Prize Competition Conducted by Farm and Dairy Last Year**

As nice a farm as one can wish for is the 115 acres, owned and worked by W. A. Paterson, at Agincourt, York Co., Ont., which farm was awarded the first prize in district No. 4 over all competitors in Western Ontario in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Prize Competition conducted last year by Farm and Dairy. This farm is favored by nature. It is situated in one of the finest general farming sections in Ontario, the land being but slightly rolling and of a clay loam soil, the like of which every good farmer knows and appreciates the value.

It required a great deal more than nature gave him in the general character of his farm, however, to enable Mr. Paterson to win first place in the great district in which he was competing.

It was his all round high average score, particularly in those departments relating to farm management, workmanship, neatness, crop rotation, freedom from weeds, book-keeping, and other important points we might mention, along with his good average on all other departments of his farm, which won for Mr. Paterson the coveted prize and placed his farm in the premier position amongst his competitors. These points as they appealed to one of the editors of Farm and Dairy, who along with Mr. Simpson Rennie judged the farms in Western Ontario last July, are dealt with in brief in this article written from notes made at that time.

Like many other progressive dairymen, Mr. Paterson recognizes the superior value of pure bred cows. He is partial to Holsteins and has a real nice herd. At the time of our visit he had 10 cows milking, eight of these being pure breeds. As rapidly as he can conveniently Mr. Paterson is working into pure breeds entirely. The milk has never been sold away from this farm, butter being made at home and sold in the splendid, not far distant market in Toronto.

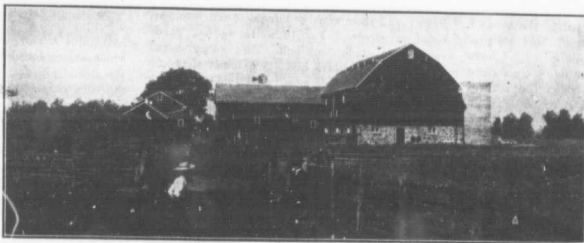
The silo is of course an important factor on this as on all other up-to-date dairy farms. A cement silo, which may be seen in the illustration on this page, is now in use. Previous to the erection of this structure two years ago, Mr. Paterson had an old-fashioned square silo inside of the barn. This old silo he pulled down and replaced it with the cement silo outside the barn.

**THE SILO IS VERY EFFICIENT.**

Speaking of his experience with silos, Mr. Paterson said, "I would not like to be without the

silo, especially when one can get well matured corn to put in it. My new silo is in every way satisfactory. It cost me for the work, by contract, \$95, plus 30 barrels of cement and 50 loads of gravel. I like it better than the wooden silo."

Generally during the winter time Mr. Paterson has a few feeding cattle. These he keeps in an old part of his stables otherwise not in use. This old cow stable, and old root cellar in connection with it, are quite unhandy and we judges scored him accordingly for it. His modern stable, however, where he keeps his dairy cows and which is the main stable, has many points about it that are commendable. It has cement floors throughout, water basins in all of the stalls and a system of ventilation is provided. The ventilation is not



**A Glimpse From the Rear of a First Prize Western Ontario Farm**

A fair idea of many things as they are to be found on this farm, as described in the adjoining article, is afforded by this illustration from a photograph taken by an editor of Farm and Dairy at the time of judging the competing farms last July. Mr. Simpson Rennie, Ontario's famous gold medal farmer, who was one of the judges, may be seen to the right; Mr. W. A. Paterson, the progressive owner of this splendid farm, to the left.

as complete as it might be; it consists altogether of outlets, these being chutes at each purline post, the chutes being made of 10-inch boards. The only inlets are the windows and doors. Mr. Paterson is partial to the water basins. He likes them very well and would not be without them.

**CLEAN STABLES, WHITE-WASHED.**

While this stable is far above the average in the matter of sufficient light, it would be improved with more window space. Whitewash on the walls gave the stable a fine appearance and made it appear quite well lighted. Everything about the stable was clean and neat and gave evidence, as indeed did everything else about the place, of being under the management of a man who believed in the value of having everything done up neatly and kept in first-class order.

The water supply on this farm is immense. Other than the main supply from the well, which is pumped by a wind-mill, there were other supplies by well or cistern. Of these we did not altogether approve, one being right in the stable with a pump in it, the other in the pig pen from which water was supplied to the hogs. The ce-

ment floors of course precluded the possibility of there being drainage into this source of extra supply as would be the case in many stables. Mention of these is made only because they appear to be, in at least one case, quite unnecessary and therefore more of a nuisance, if not a danger, than the owner realizes.

Pigs are kept to consume the by-products of the dairy and to turn in their share of revenue. We noticed that there were no brood sows on the place and on enquiry we learned that Mr. Paterson has found that for him there is no money in raising hogs, that it pays much better to buy store hogs. Where conditions are different, and on rougher farms, hogs can profitably be raised where a profit would not be realized on a farm like Mr. Paterson's, and as it was remarked at the time of our enquiry, "There are always 'fools' enough to raise the pigs."

"There is nothing that will bring money in any better on a farm than two or three brood mares raising colts each year," said Mr. Paterson, as we looked over his fine string of work horses. Mr. Paterson bred four mares last year. He had on hand six horses and three colts, some of which were away to pasture and these we did not see. The one mare, as photographed and reproduced elsewhere in connection with this article, gives a fair idea of the stamp of mare Mr. Paterson likes and keeps.

A small orchard of four acres on this farm justifies its being in the annual revenue it returns. This orchard is kept in good shape. It was being pruned at the time of our visit in July. Mr. Paterson believing in summer pruning since he finds it more convenient to get it done at that season and it has been his experience that with the summer pruning wounds heal over more rapidly and do not sucker as readily as when pruned at other seasons.

Right next to the orchard is the garden. Like many other farmers, Mr. Paterson here has made the mistake of having it too small and fenced in so as to make it impossible to use a horse. The garden is very convenient to the kitchen and was in excellent shape. The soil appeared to be particularly fertile and every appearance was in evidence of it being a valuable plot of land and yielding bountifully of all things that would be acceptable and should be on every farmer's table during the garden season.

**HOME NOT ELABORATE BUT COSY**

Mr. Paterson's house, as may be seen in two of the illustrations appearing with this article, is not in any way elaborate and is quite what

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