

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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men fare alike, combining elasticity with faith, moral strength with legal rights, education and goodwill with a power sinister enough to throttle legislation and levy toll on the consumers of a nation. But read the story; it will speak for itself.

The Farmer's Individuality.

It is said that the farmer is the most individualistic of men, and that his conditions make him thus. Individuality is what is needed by many men of the present day, and if the farmer exhibits a strong individuality, what of it? If it is exerted in the right direction, he is so much the better man. Personal independence of action, purpose or interest, and the separation, distinction and individualism which these give, if directed in the right manner, are some of the strong points of character. Perhaps the farmer is slower than some other classes of people to take up with new ideas, preferring, rather, to retain the old and tried methods. He is criticised severely by some writers because of this tardiness to grasp what looks like great opportunities, but can you blame him for looking for proof of the soundness of any new project or undertaking? The twentieth-century farmer is not dogmatically clinging to the old conservative beliefs of his forefathers, but he is rather a man with thoroughly up-to-date business principles, and along with these he exhibits an individuality, as a class, not equalled by any other profession. The world admires a man of individuality and strength of purpose. The farmer believes and has faith in his business and his methods, and, as a rule, is willing to try new methods at any time, provided he sees in them a reasonable superiority over his former practice. New methods and new schemes arise daily, and it requires a man of brains and capacity for thinking and discriminating to select what is best for his own particular farm. In making these selections, he is creating a character which may make him a source of much good in his locality. People are great imitators, and

they like to do things as some great man does them. If a certain farmer in a district makes a success of some new venture, many others will eventually try it; some will succeed, others will not. Different persons are suited for different phases of life in farming, as in any other enterprise, and the man with strongest and best-directed individuality is the one who is making the greatest success of life. Get to work and do something to show your distinction in the world. No place offers greater opportunity than the farm.

Our Scottish Letter.

A WELL-WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF AN INTERESTING VISIT TO THRIFTY HOLLAND.

In closing our last letter, I mentioned that this would be devoted to some account of Holland and impressions of Dutch farming gleaned during a ten days' sojourn in the Netherlands in the beginning of May. The party of which I formed one numbered about one hundred. It was organized by the British Dairy Farmers' Association, of 12 Hanover Square, London, W., and was under the leadership of J. J. Van Rijn, the Commissioner for the Netherlands in Great Britain. The Government of the Netherlands own the railroads, highways and train roads in Holland, but the lines are operated by private companies, who own the rolling stock. The railways and tram lines are well developed, and one consequence, so far as our party was concerned, was that we had free transit over a great stretch of country, and therefore saw far more than we could possibly have seen in the same time had we been going on our own individual account. The Government were most anxious that we should see everything in the way of agriculture and stock-rearing for ourselves; that we should have the fullest opportunity of investigating the methods by which Holland has been able to compete so successfully in the British markets in the matter of dairy produce, and that nothing should be omitted which would enable us to understand the conditions under which agriculture is prosecuted in the Netherlands. The hospitality experienced was overwhelming in its liberality and variety, and the tour will linger in memory as one of the most delightful ever known by those engaged in it.

We entered Holland via Harwich and the Hook, and arrived at The Hague in the early morning. The first outstanding institution which made an impression upon our minds was the Control Station in The Hague. By a highly-organized system, the whole export trade of the district around The Hague is under Government control. The creameries, which manufacture the produce, are all registered, and each has its own trade-mark. That must be affixed to all produce. In like manner, the farms supplying each creamery are all registered, and subject to control, so that any defect in their products can at once be brought home to the individual culprit. By this system, the Government is able to guarantee the quality of the dairy produce sent out of Holland; and all this is done in such wise as leaves little ground for complaint.

FARMING BELOW THE SEA.

The salvation of the Dutch farmer, who is generally a small holder—that is, his land does not extend to more than 50 or 60 acres, as a rule—is the co-operative creamery system. His cowsheds and general building arrangements would come in for very severe criticism at the hands of our British Sanitary authorities, but, as his cows are milked in the fields, the milk is never near to the steading. It is collected direct from the milking stances and conveyed to the creameries. Then it is manipulated into all the various dairy products for which Holland is famed. The water supply of the country is a standing mystery to the visitor. The canals seem to be the reservoirs for ordinary culinary and cleansing purposes, and yet the movement in the canals is not rapid; in fact, one has difficulty in seeing movement at times; at other times, when the wind is high, there is a considerable current. Artesian wells are sunk for the uses of the creameries, but, with so flat a country, and much of it not only flat, but under sea-level, the wonder is how cleanliness and sanitation are conserved. Yet they are conserved and brought to a high degree of efficiency. It is said that cleanliness with the Dutch woman is almost a vice. She is always cleaning, and her ideal is very high. The low country—that is, the western part of the country—would seem to be almost afloat. In the district around Boskoop, a center of the dairy industry, the soil seems to rest on water which is only very far down. The domestic water supply of the houses is obtained in an ingenious fashion, by suction wells far down, and pumping into tanks raised far above the level of the houses. But, in south, the Dutchman and his country are in other things a paradox. He has no stones worth speaking about, yet he has the best roads in Europe. He has miles of canals and bridges, and has built a commercial capital,

Amsterdam, on piles. It is called the Venice of the North, and when a native gives you directions in the city, he indicates your movements by the canals you cross, not by the blocks you pass. He grows the loveliest bulbs and flowers to be seen in Europe, yet you may see the most magnificent blaze of color well beneath the level of the North Sea. He is rich in capital, but richer in his contentment and his indomitable courage and tenacity. His staying-power is enormous, and he makes the best of everything. He wrested his country, to begin with, from the sea, and, having obtained it and banked out the sea for eighty long years, he defied the Spaniard, and in the end drove him beaten and vanquished from the field. A Dutchman is the incarnation of perseverance and indomitable courage. He has never been conquered, and even when beaten or overpowered by numbers, he dictates terms to his conqueror. He is thorough in all he does, and his agriculture is simple, but it is perfect for the purpose he has in view.

DUTCH FARMING SIMPLE.

Dutch farming, as distinguished from horticulture, is, in the main, simplicity itself. In Friesland the natives have three possessions which constitute their wealth. Their first is their own thrift and keen desire to "get there." They are cleanly, honorable in their dealings, and neighborly to a degree. Their second possession is their cattle. Friesland cattle are the Holstein-Friesian cattle of Canada and the United States. In their native province they attain an eminence in health and milk yield which even America cannot surpass. It is currently held, and the statistics seem to bear out the claim, that Friesland cattle give a much better average in butter-fat on their own pastures than they do abroad. The cows are great, handsome animals, with capacious udders and ideal, velvety skins. They are in high favor in South Africa, where their black teats are said to be much less susceptible to "crack" and develop sores than the white teats of other breeds. The Milk Record system of Friesland is reduced to a fine art. The whole province and its cattle are under official control, and the records alike of milk production and quality are kept under Government control. The Town of Leeuwarden is the capital of Friesland. In it will be found all the pedigree and milk-record registers, and it is the center from which radiates the gigantic system of co-operative creameries which has brought wealth to the Province. Another notable center of the same form of enterprise in the Town of Sneek, some distance inland, on the shores of a lovely lake, and commanding an endless labyrinth of canals by which the produce of the creameries is conveyed to the ends of the earth, if need be. The Town of Leeuwarden is the second largest market in Holland. Rotterdam is the largest. Friday is the market day in Leeuwarden, and every corner in the town is occupied on the Thursday evening. Cattle are penned in the market, and all the selling is by private treaty. Auction sales we heard not of. A staff of veterinary surgeons employed by the province examine every animal that enters the market, for contagious disease, and the precautions taken to prevent its spread are worthy of all praise. Sneek is more of a commercial center. Both towns are marvellously well equipped with cold-storage accommodation, and the Dutch are so proud of what they make that they label it all "Duten Produce." This is as it ought to be. The Cheshire cheese men found fault with the Dutchmen manufacturing Cheshire cheese for sale in England. This is the response of the Dutchman. He is proud of what he makes, and is prepared to stand on the head of it.

GLORIOUS GRASS AND HAY.

His third great asset is his pasture. In Friesland and the Province of North Holland, of which Amsterdam is the capital, the pasture, as seen in the beginning of May, could not be excelled. There is no green-cropping as we understand the term. The only crop is hay, and the three things which mean wealth to the Hollander are his cattle, his pasture and his hay. With these, he is proof against disaster both summer and winter. His cows go out to pasture in the beginning of May, and are never again inside until the end of October. They are put inside at that date, and are not again out until the beginning of May. They begin to calve in February, and the calving season ends in May. The part of the farm building which accommodates the cows in winter, in some houses visited, becomes a drawing-room or parlor, and if the goodwives had not told the ladies of our company this, they never would have suspected it from anything seen or odour smelt in the room in which they were being entertained. The cows are wintered on the hay, which is stored under the one roof with the dwelling-house, the byre, and the barn. The whole is designed to insure economic and efficient working during the long winter. The theories upon which sanitary regulations are built in Great Britain are set absolutely at defiance, and the health of both cattle and human beings seems to be excellent. The cattle are sheeted when they are put out to grass in May. This sheeting of the cows was an ob-