

Glenlea Stock Farm Activities

A Story of the Development of a Farm Home, and a Dairy Herd---By J. P. Sackville

SOMEONE, I have forgotten now who, has said that of all the really successful men in this world, one-half have been nurtured and surrounded amid such favorable environment that it was impossible for them to be anything else. Some peculiar condition or untoward circumstance has been responsible for the achievements of the other 50 per cent. Possibly in the latter case it has been a matter of luck, if there is such a thing, or again it may be that they have utilized a decided failure or unfavorable event in their life as a stepping stone to achievement. It would be interesting to possess all the facts connected with the careers of such people.

The establishment of the herd of dairy cattle on Glenlea Farm, although not as important one to the general public, but very close to the heart of Mr. Cummings, the proprietor, was due to force of circumstances. When Mr. Cummings decided a few years ago that it would be to his advantage to own some land adjacent to the city of Winnipeg he finally decided to purchase what is known as Glenlea Stock Farm, situated about 25 miles south of the city. For a short time after taking possession he endeavored to follow the usual method of farming prevailing in Western Canada—growing grain for sale.

For many years previous to Mr. Cummings' possession of this particular farm it had been handled in the usual way, more or less, possibly less; at all events the continuous grain cropping had resulted in the fields being polluted with all manner of weeds, and the soil depleted of plant food, and Mr. Cummings decided that in order to clean this farm and restore the fertility it would be necessary to depart from the well beaten path. In a word, he decided to introduce livestock into his scheme of operations. Thus it is true that Mr. Cummings can be classed with those successful men who took advantage of adversity, in that he found himself possessed of an undesirable farm, and out of that he worked out his salvation, and is now the owner of one of the most up-to-date dairy farms in western Canada. That he has accomplished what he set out to do is evident judging by the crops seen on the farm a few weeks ago. The grain was growing so rank that, as I said to Mr. Cummings, "there wasn't any room for weeds."

The Farm
The location of the farm lends itself to dairying. Situated so close to one of the best markets for his products that could be found, having on his farm three railroad stations, which makes shipping convenient, together with the fact that the owner has a fondness for and a knowledge of

livestock is a combination that goes a long way towards success in this line. The farm includes two sections of land, is situated on the banks of the Red River, the farm steadings being located on the river banks and surrounded by a natural growth of bush that affords valuable protection. "This is a great asset to our farm," declared Mr. Cummings. "In the very roughest days during the winter our men can go about in perfect comfort and the herd is turned out regularly every day, something that wouldn't be possible if we hadn't this protection."

It has often been stated that it is difficult to enjoy the comforts of a city home in the country; in fact, in not a few cases this has been made the excuse for moving to town. The house in which Mr. Cummings and family live while on the farm is as well equipped as possible in any city home. Electric light, bath room and water on tap are all evidences of this. The development of the power for the lighting system is a unique feature on this farm. In order to procure

milker. Another feature that attracted my attention was the splendid vegetable garden adjoining the house. The proprietor of Glenlea farm has certainly got the proper viewpoint of what a home on the farm should be.

Mr. Cummings not only believes in making himself and family as comfortable as possible, but he considers the welfare of the men on the farm as well. Provision is made for boarding the men at a central boarding house supervised by a competent cook and comfortable sleeping quarters are arranged for in an adjoining building. Discussing with Mr. Cummings the question of securing suitable help on the farm he had this to say: "In common with all other business the war has effected us. During the past three years men have left us to join the colors. We have had no difficulty, however, in securing a supply sufficient to keep things going. We engage our men by the year, and in this means we have very little shifting about. There are very few men on the farm at present who have been with us less than three years and some of them



Corn Crop at Glenlea. Photo taken latter part of August.

to a large extent and those breeders in the west who have made large records with their cows deserve all the more credit for doing so.

The aim at Glenlea farm is to maintain a herd that is capable of producing a liberal flow of milk, not for a week only, nor yet for one year, but can continue doing this over a period of years, and, in addition, produce a calf every 13 months. After all, this is more important and economical than striving for big records. One of the highest authorities on dairy cattle in Canada declared to the writer recently that the dairyman must look to the returns from his herd, not in possessing one or two animals that are record breakers and depend upon this as an advertisement to sell surplus stock, but rather by maintaining a herd that will produce a uniform liberal flow of milk. In other words, as a commercial proposition, the return in the way of milk is the greatest asset.

Possessing cows that have it in them to produce, the proprietor of Glenlea farm does not make the mistake of withholding the wherewith from which the milk is made. Two large cement silos 18x40, into which 50 acres of corn can be stored, provides for 30 pounds of ensilage for 300 days for each cow. At the time of my visit last month the cows were being fed ensilage night and morning in troughs provided in the yard. This is considerably cheaper than, and quite as satisfactory as, feeding high-priced concentrates. Ensilage and hay or oat sheaves together with a grain mixture fed during the winter makes up a ration that is giving results in the way of milk flow.

The practice at Glenlea is to milk the cows three times a day for the first few months of the lactation period. "This scheme fits in very well with us," said Mr. Cummings. "I figure we get each day from 10 to 20 pounds of milk extra from each cow. It has the additional advantage in that we utilize the mid-day milk for feeding our calves and the night and morning's milk is thus left for shipment." The question of feeding calves when the whole milk is sent off the farm is usually one difficult to solve; in fact in not a few cases it results in the youngsters going with a slim supply, which is reflected in the poorly developed pot-bellied calves often seen on dairy farms. The system as followed on this farm has gotten over this difficulty pretty well. In looking over the milk sheets hanging in the stable several cases were noticed where individual members of this herd were giving as high as 70 pounds of milk a day, and remember, this was without grain feeding.

Milk Produced Under Ideal Conditions
If every housewife in Winnipeg could see the conditions under which milk on

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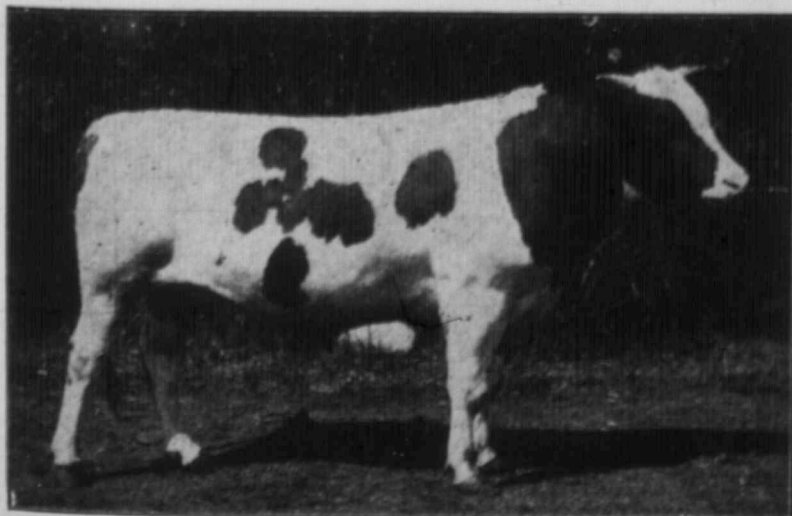
The Farm Steading at Glenlea, showing part of the Herd in the Foreground.

a supply of good water Mr. Cummings is using a gasoline engine for pumping. When the engine is in operation it is utilized for generating electric power which is stored ready for supplying electric light. This is a comparatively inexpensive method and the cost outside of the installing of the system is small. At the time this system was first considered it was thought sufficient electric power could be generated to provide for operating a milking machine. It was found later, however, that it took the gasoline engine running for seven hours to generate sufficient power to operate the milking machine two hours. This was not considered satisfactory and when the milking machine was installed a short time ago it was found necessary to provide an engine to operate the

much longer." This question of farm labor is one that comes home to practically every farmer in the west and the system as followed on Glenlea farm has very much to commend it. A yearly engagement, together with provision whereby a comfortable home is provided for the men will go a long way in securing satisfactory help. When only one or two men are engaged, and in case they are married men, a separate house for each might be provided if possible.

The Dairy Herd

The herd of Holsteins on Glenlea farm is the joy and pride of the owner, and well it might be. About 150 head of cows and calves made up of big, strong, typy cows and growthy sappy youngsters is the result of intelligent buying, breeding, selection and feeding. In choosing for type, Mr. Cummings has not overlooked production. Official testing has not been followed except in the case of one cow which, although not given any care prior to the test, came through with over 100 pounds of milk a day. In discussing with Mr. Cummings the question of official testing, he mentioned a fact that is frequently overlooked in connection with test work in the prairie provinces. "The aim should be to give a cow on test all the very best feeds that can be had. It is recognized that roughages, as alfalfa, ensilage, roots and such concentrates as cotton seed, meal and peas are feeds that stimulate a large flow of milk and tend to keep the animals' system in good working condition. We find that these feeds are not always available on western Canada farms, or if they can be procured are such an exorbitant price as to make them prohibitive. This being true, we are handicapped when it comes to test work as compared with breeders in districts where such feeds are often home-grown." This argument presented by Mr. Cummings holds true



"Sir Bessie Homestead Fobes." Head of the Glenlea Herd. A Bull of Royal Breeding and Excellent Conformation.