



# FARM AND DAIRY

## & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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## A Visit To Elm Cottage Farm

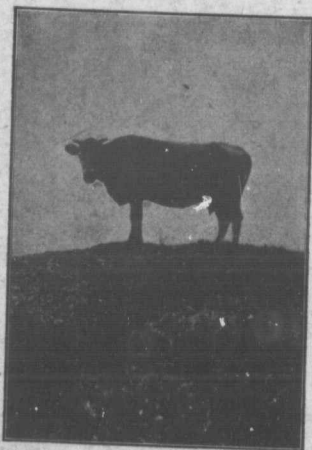
A Nice Herd of Jerseys Is the Main Source of Revenue.—By J. F. E. Ellis, B.S.A.

**D**URING the past few months I have from time to time made reference to my visit last spring to several representative farmers in the Bedford district of Quebec. Several of these farms I have already described in Farm and Dairy. The subject of this sketch, the last of the series, is Elm Cottage Farm, the property of Geo. E. Ford—or perhaps I had better say, the property of Mr. and Mrs. Ford, for in all things they work together and are equal partners in all that pertains to the farm. I have made few visits that I will remember with so much appreciation as the afternoon that I spent with these kindly, courteous people, whose family traditions on both sides of the house have been so long closely associated with the district in which they live; Mr. Ford, for instance, is the fourth of the name on the farm he now owns.

I first heard of Mr. Ford as a breeder of pure bred Jerseys, and it was primarily to see his herd that I visited Elm Cottage Farm. I found he had some good ones. The herd bull, purchased at Maridale, N.Y., comes from a herd the cows of which run from 500 to 700 lbs. of butter, with a test of six per cent. right through the entire herd. His grand-dam was old Sadie Queen of Vetro, a famous cow in her day. The sire used previous to this one came from the herd of Mr. Billings, of Woodstock, Vermont, and he improved the herd to a very satisfactory extent.

### A Serious Setback.

The milking herd consists of 17 cows. On the farm altogether there were 40 registered Jerseys. The farm could readily support 35 milking cows, but it is Mr. Ford's purpose to breed all of his own cows and keep only those that are healthy and good producers. Particular emphasis is laid on the health of the herd, and its importance has been learned by hard experience. Mr. Ford took over the old farm in 1900, and immediately started to establish his herd. In 1907 all of his cattle were slaughtered on account of tuberculosis. Need I say that Mr. Ford was almost discouraged for the time, but in 1910 he made another start, and the herd has gradually grown to its present proportions. They are all tuberculin tested, and



Striking the High Spots in Quebec. On the farm of Geo. E. Ford, Cowansville, Que.

there has not been a single reaction in the last three years.

A Jersey cow that will produce milk at a profit



Their Owner Specializes in Butter for the Montreal Market. Jerseys at Home on Elm Cottage Farm, Cowansville, Que.—Photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

is the cow that Mr. Ford aims at, and his will average a pound to a pound and a quarter of butter a day all through the winter months. The cows freshen in the fall whenever possible. Ensilage and roots with, of course, clover hay are the basis of the winter ration. From 2,500 to 3,000 bushels of roots are grown each year, and on the value of these Mr. Ford lays great stress, as he finds that they keep the cows in "great shape." Grain is not heavily fed, never more than from three to four quarts a day. Mainly it is bran, with cotton seed once a day and oil cake once a day. Little grain is grown on the farm. The hay is largely pure clover, the seeding being at the rate of 16 to 18 lbs. Mammoth Red to the acre. In recent years no timothy seed has been included.

### Dairy Butter the Specialty.

The cream is made into butter at home and shipped to Montreal, where best prices are realized.

The farm itself is broken and irregular, the soil generally being a gravelly loam. The total area is 312 acres, with about 150 acres under crop. The nature of the farm makes it almost ideal for sheep, and Mr. Ford expects the flock to pay for the last 100 acres added to the farm.

Although Mr. Ford and his wife have not accumulated great wealth, nor achieved all of their ideals for the farm proper, they have found the time and the money to improve their home and add to the old house all modern conveniences. Thus in their home they have combined the permanence of the older builders with the conveniences and comforts of the modern. The home has a beautiful situation only a few miles from the town of Cowansville.

In the rush of seeding, especially when the season is as late as it is this year, there may be a temptation to work the land when it is too wet. This is bad for almost all soils, but on heavy soils it may do incalculable damage. Any one who has had to do with clay that has been puddled and sun baked realizes the difficulty of getting the soil back to proper tilth.

A few hours' delay may save much work later on.