

Farnham Farm.

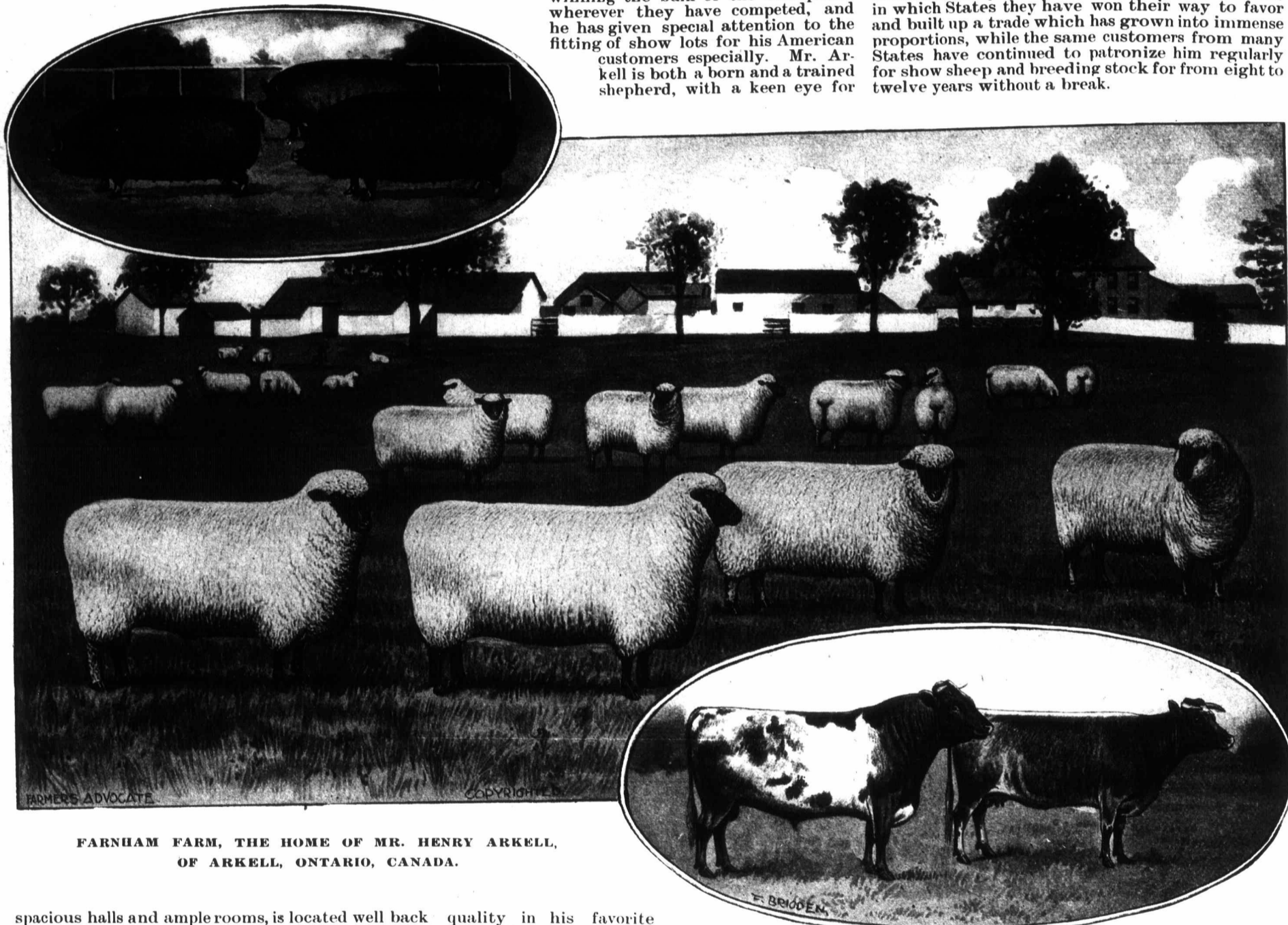
One of the most interesting rural homes in the Dominion is Farnham, the widely-known stock farm of Mr. Henry Arkell, of Arkell, Ontario, famed for its flock of Oxford sheep, situated on the Puslinch Plains, six miles from the Royal City of Guelph, and less than half a mile from Arkell station on the Canada Pacific Railway. The farm of 300 acres was homesteaded in 1881 by the late Mr. Thomas Arkell, who came out from Berkshire, England, about that time, at the age of 28 years, in company with the late Mr. F. W. Stone, the well-known stock breeder, who took up an adjacent bush lot, and here the two young men set to work, with little capital other than strong arms and stout hearts, to hew homes for themselves in the forest primeval. Mr. Arkell lived to see the fruits of his labor in a well-cleared, fertile and systematically laid-out farm, with substantial buildings, quite among the best of their time, and left the homestead, subject to certain legacies, to his youngest son, who was born in 1884; the elder having been previously provided for. The present stone dwelling house, built by the late Mr. Arkell in 1852, after the model of English farmhouses in his native country, with its high gables,

nent, as his first importation in 1881 numbered an even one hundred sheep, mostly young ewes, selected from some of the best flocks in England, and he has continued to import a few nearly every year from that date to the present. With such a foundation stock, and the continued use of only first-class imported rams, the pick of the first-prize pens at the Royal Show during all these years, it is not surprising that the Farnham flock has won its way to the position aimed at by its owner, and that during the years when he was making his reputation as a breeder and an exhibitor his flock won more than a full share of the highest honors at the principal shows in Canada in his own hands, and in the United States in the hands of his customers, and that at the World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893, with ten entries he won nine prizes in keen competition, comprising many of the prizewinners at the English Royal Show of that year.

His reputation having, by this record and his past successes, been fully established, he ceased from showing, but, as a result of his discriminating judgment and skill as a breeder, his sheep, prepared each year by himself, have gone into the hands of other breeders in Canada and the United States, and well maintained the character of the flock by winning the bulk of the best prizes wherever they have competed, and he has given special attention to the fitting of show lots for his American customers especially. Mr. Arkell is both a born and a trained shepherd, with a keen eye for

Royal of 1898, bred by Mr. Wm. Arkell, has been used the present season to part of the ewe flock, a big, strong sheep, weighing about 300 lbs. in breeding condition on grass alone, having a dense fleece of good length and fine quality, and the nice gray or light brown color of face and legs preferred by Mr. Arkell and most experienced breeders. Six choice ram lambs from the same flock were imported in the present year, two of which, Royal Windsor 3rd and Royal Windsor 6th, selected from the second-prize pen at the Royal Show at Maidstone, are retained in the flock, and are true to the best characteristics of the breed in type and quality, and promise well to perpetuate the high character of the flock. About 100 ram lambs are being wintered, the tops of which, a grand lot, will be pushed forward for show sheep next year, and a handsome bunch of ewe lambs are in stock which will make a capital lot of yearlings next year to go into the flock or fill orders for show purposes, while in the neighborhood of 100 ewes are being bred the present season.

Mr. Arkell has played a leading part in the distribution of the Oxford Downs over wide areas of the American continent, having sold the first that went into the range territories of Wyoming and Colorado, and probably the first to go to Montana, in which States they have won their way to favor and built up a trade which has grown into immense proportions, while the same customers from many States have continued to patronize him regularly for show sheep and breeding stock for from eight to twelve years without a break.



FARNHAM FARM, THE HOME OF MR. HENRY ARKELL, OF ARKELL, ONTARIO, CANADA.

spacious halls and ample rooms, is located well back from the public road, near the center of the farm, and is surrounded by large and well-kept lawns, garden and orchard, which, together with the spacious grassy courts around the farm buildings, kept clear of litter and rubbish, gives to the establishment an air of neatness and order which gives the visitor a favorable impression from the first, and one which grows upon him on further acquaintance with the genial host and his estimable wife.

The farm, laid out in uniform, well-fenced fields of 20 acres each, on either side of a wide, grassy lane, is gently rolling, of sharp, gravelly loam, and rises gradually to the rear, where from a high elevation the view of the farm, with its flocks feeding, and its general surroundings, bears a striking resemblance to that seen from the Downs in some of the counties in Old England. And to complete the likeness, here are the "Down" sheep—Oxfords galore—the flock numbering 280 at the time of our visit in November, after a successful season's sales.

While sheep have been the leading feature of stock-raising on the farm for forty years or more, it was in 1881 that the present owner nailed his colors to the Oxford banner and started out with the ambition to stand high in the front rank of Canadian breeders of this class of strong, vigorous and high-quality sheep, and his initial venture in importing was made on a scale corresponding with his faith in the future of the breed on this conti-

quality in his favorite breed of sheep, and carries in his mind the individuality of each of the sires used in the flock since its inception, which were: From 1881 to 1883, a Hobbs sheep; in 1884 and 1885, one of Mr. William Arkell's breeding, a relative of the family, who has scored high in the Oxford competitions at the Royal Show for many years; in 1886 and 1887, a Hobbs sheep was in use; in 1888 and 1889, one from the flocks of Mr. John Jacobs; and from 1890 to 1898, rams from the flocks of Mr. Geo. Adams and Lord Brassey were in service. From the last named came the grand Old Royal Warwick, who was the choice of the first-prize pen of ram lambs at the Royal Show in 1892, and has been retained in the flock till the present time, a large proportion of the younger members of the flock being sired by him, and showing much uniformity of type, robustness and character. He is a typical representative of the breed, with grand constitution, standing well on strong legs, having an even fleece of fine quality, and presenting a living example of the hardiness and longevity of the breed. Having served his time well at Farnham, he has been sold to head the flock of that discriminating breeder, Mr. Henry Arkell, of Teeswater, where he will find a further field of usefulness.

The imported yearling ram, Hero 6th, the pick of the first-prize pen of three ram lambs at the

THE SHORTHORN HERD.

A nice herd of Shorthorn cattle, comprising about 20 females and a few young bulls, is maintained on the farm, part of which are descended from the early importation of Hon. Adam Ferguson, noted for deep-milking qualities, and part from the Syme stock, imported from Scotland by the Millers, of Markham and Pickering, the top crosses in all their pedigrees being by Scotch-bred bulls, rich in the blood of such famous sires as Barmpton Hero, Aberdeen, and Imp. Indian Chief; the present stock bull, Crown Jewel 20th, being a blocky, thick-fleshed roan 2-year-old, grandson of the last named noted sire of champions; while the previous head of the herd was a descendant of the gold medal cow at the Centennial Exhibition. The cows are of good size, straight, smooth, of good quality, and are, as a rule, excellent milkers, and the young things are low-set, fleshy, and of the modern type, showing strong indications of early maturity. A small herd of registered Berkshire swine of the improved and approved stamp is also kept, which have been bred from some of the best importations. To Farnham Farm and its enterprising owner is due unstinted credit for their influence in importing, producing and distributing high-class stock in this Western world.