

### The Farm.

#### A Successful Farmer and Dairy-man.

About a year and a half ago, when advised to take part in the establishment of a farmers' council, we applied to the East Middlesex Agricultural Society and to the Council of the County of Middlesex, asking each of these bodies to name three of the "most honorable, independent, successful, and progressive farmers" within their knowledge. Our request having been granted, Mr. Dougald Leitch, an engraving of whom we present herewith, was appointed chairman of the committee of the three farmers named by the County Council, and Mr. Henry Anderson chairman of those named by the East Middlesex Agricultural Society. These gentlemen conferred with us, the result of the conference being the organization of the DOMINION FARMERS' COUNCIL. Mr. Leitch was elected President, and Mr. Anderson (now Vice-President) was elected Secretary. Mr. John Kennedy (one of the three farmers named by the East Middlesex Agricultural Society), Treasurer.

Presuming that those of our readers who have been reading the reports of the Dominion Farmers' Council, which appear in the ADVOCATE, will be interested in knowing something about the man whom the farmers of the County of Middlesex, through their municipal and agricultural representatives, have declared to be their *most honorable, independent, successful and progressive farmer*, we recently paid him a visit for the purpose of ascertaining some facts about his personal history and about his system of farming. We need not go into detail about his views on agriculture, for he has given expression to many of them in his speeches delivered, and his papers read, before the Council of which he has the honor of being President.

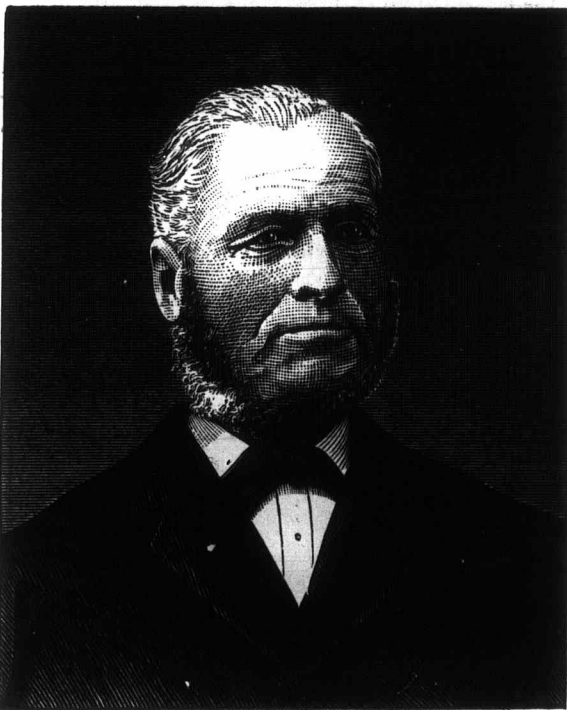
Dougald Leitch was born in Argyle-shire, Scotland, in 1826. He is the son of a fisherman, and was left an orphan at the age of four years. Having to push his own way through the world, his education in youth was very limited, being confined to three winters' attendance at school in his native country. While still very young, he was employed in herding cows, having to work from six o'clock in the morning till dark, with no companion except his faithful dog. At the age of 16 years he set sail for America, and spent about six years fishing on the lakes, mainly between Oswego and Chicago, during which time he saved about \$500, with which he purchased the homestead on which he still resides, situated in the township of Caradoc, about four miles from Strathroy.

Commencing operations in the wilderness without any knowledge of farming, he devoted himself studiously to the reading of agricultural journals and books, and he declares that he attributes his success to the perusal of agricultural papers. Neither did he neglect a general education, for he has also spent many of his long winter evenings in other branches of learning, and now, through his own exertions, he is ready with the pen and quite expert at

figures. Last winter we met him at a Farmers' Institute, and he astonished the gathering by engaging in a scientific dissertation in opposition to one of the Professors of the Ontario Agricultural College. The question under discussion gave rise to a demand for a scientific explanation of some vexed problems in dairying and stock feeding. Although not much accustomed to speaking in public, he speaks fluently and forcibly.

He is addicted to tart sayings. For example, when we asked him whether he was a believer in scientific farming, or followed those who farmed by the exercise of "common sense," he replied: "No farmer can have common sense to exercise unless he understands the first principles of his profession; it is a knowledge of these principles that furnishes scope for his judgment and common sense."

This being the foundation on which he built his system of farming, it will be interesting to inquire what success he has achieved. He owns 200 acres of land, but the old homestead,



DOUGALD LEITCH, ESQ.,  
President of the Dominion Farmers' Council.

containing 100 acres, is the main source of his profit, the other farm having been badly worn out before he purchased it, 50 acres ten years ago, and the other 50 he has had about five years. There are 150 acres cleared. He also owns a cheese factory on the farm, where he manufactures this year 61 tons of cheese; he has another factory in Glencoe, the property being worth \$3,000, the make this year being 100 tons, and also a factory in South Caradoc making 67 tons. In addition to these, he manages a rented factory west of Strathroy having a capacity of 45 tons; total number of tons manufactured by him this season, 273. His factories are not a speculative business, as he manufactures by the pound, and he is salesman for all his patrons as well as for himself. He thoroughly understands the science of cheese-making, and never fails to procure the highest market price for his goods. Owing to his superior skill in breeding, his cows produce a quality of milk which is over 1½ percent richer in total solids than the average milk delivered

at his home factory. Basing a calculation upon these figures, he sustains the following loss: He delivered this season about 76,000 lbs. of milk to the factory, which if it were of the average quality, would represent about 7,600 lbs. of cheese, allowing 10 lbs. of milk for a pound of cheese; and the value at 12c. a pound would be \$912. But his milk being richer by 1.5 percent of solids, would make about 8,740 lbs. of cheese, valued at \$1,048. Thus we find that he loses \$136, which sum is distributed amongst his patrons. But as the cost of manufacture and sale should be subtracted from this sum, the loss, in round numbers, may be set down as \$120. It cannot therefore be said that he is unmindful of his neighbors.

His method of reckoning the profits of the farm should be studied by every practical farmer. Hundred acre farms in his neighborhood sell for about \$6,000. His books show that his annual profits from his land are equal to 12 to 14 percent on the market price of his 200 acres, stock, etc. Many speculating farmers may have exceeded his profit for a time; but many farms during the past few years have paid no dividends, and the average is less than four percent. His plan is to have neither debts nor money. He puts all his spare profits back on the farm. If he had converted his profits into more farms instead of increasing the products of the land he has, he would now have more farms, and would be regarded by his neighbors as being wealthier, but his profits would be much less. He regards those farmers who hoard money up in the bank, their farms paying a small dividend, as having neither science nor common sense. His ideal of a successful farmer is one who knows how to make an extra percent or two every year on the amount of capital sunk in his farm, and the way to do so is to increase its productive capacity. He regards his orchard as the most profitable branch of his business. From 3½ acres he sells between \$200 and \$300 worth of apples every year, besides what he keeps for family use, making cider, etc. After the first of November, he commences butter-making, and as he makes butter on scientific principles, he commands the

highest market price. He sells about \$50 worth of butter before the end of the year, besides keeping sufficient to support a large family and the hired men. His wheat brings about the same sum as his apples, and his hogs and calves bring in a similar amount yearly. He places the sales of poultry and eggs against the grocery bills.

He hewed his home out of the wilderness, commencing 33 years ago, and now everything has the appearance of substantiality and comfort, although he makes no pretensions to display. He regards his 50 acres of uncleared land—containing the finest beech and maple timber we ever saw—as equal in value to any average portion of the farm, acre for acre. The soil is a sandy loam, which consumes large quantities of home-made and commercial manures, but he has this advantage that the land is not greatly in need of drainage. The soil has the same mechanical texture to a great depth, and as the sand is fine, the supply of moisture comes up from far below during dry seasons.