

LAMBTON TAKES PRIDE IN BEEF CATTLE HERDS

Farmers in District Around Wyoming, Arkona and Forest Depend Largely On Splendid Herds For Returns, and So Grazing Lands Have Important Place in Mixed Farming Area

FAIR APPLE CROP IN VICINITY OF FOREST

THE LONDON ADVERTISER CROP SURVEY—DISTRICT SEVEN
This is the seventh of ten daily articles surveying farming methods and crop conditions in southwestern Ontario. The survey was made for The London Advertiser by C. G. Higman, who has had O. A. C. training as well as thorough practical experience.

District seven takes in a portion of Lambton County, where beef cattle raising is the outstanding feature of mixed farming.

District seven of The Advertiser crop survey includes the important sections over a considerable stretch of fertile land in the southwestern portion of Western Ontario bordering the lower portion of Lake Huron and including the towns of Wyoming, Petrolia, Sarnia, Forest and Arkona. This country is for the most part given over to mixed farming, with beef cattle as the largest single item, taking the district as a whole. There are exceptions to this, of course, dairying being more in vogue in the immediate vicinity of Sarnia.

The district surrounding Forest is a well-known apple-growing district and, although the crop there is not a bumper one, it exceeds anything visited so far in the survey of the crops of this portion of the province.

The district was entered from the Sarnia gravel road and commences at Wisbeach, halfway between Poplar Hill and Wyoming. At this point district seven is distinctly a stock-raising country, the acreage set out to small grains being comparatively small, while the extent of the pastures and grass land stands in greater proportions than in any of the other districts visited to date.

The soil is a rich clay loam running almost to straight clay in spots, and there is on this account little diversity in the methods of farming. Wheat and oats are the staple crops, and in many instances only sufficient oats are grown to carry the necessary horses and chickens on the farm. Potatoes and garden stuff are grown only for the farm homes, and the efforts of the farmers are concentrated in producing beef, cattle, sheep and some hogs.

The harvest this year is stated in this section to exceed anything of recent years and corn, with few exceptions, is an excellent crop.

Many of the farmers in the country lying between Wisbeach and Wyoming have adopted the practice of sowing a small proportion of sunflowers with the corn, and state that it improves the silage, the chief benefit being found in an increased proportion of leaf to stalks.

Splendid Crops
John Watson, a farmer living near Wisbeach, and on whose farm splendid crops were noticed, was pulling wild carrot from the roadside in front of his property when interviewed by The Advertiser. Mr. Watson stated that in that district this weed is becoming more troublesome than in the past, and he feels that some united effort on the part of the farmers should be put forward. He said: "It is almost useless for one man to try to cope with the weeds unless his neighbors are equally interested in keeping them down. In this district the wild carrot has gone almost beyond control."

Mr. Watson stated that oats will run almost 50 bushels to the acre and wheat around 35 as an acreage for the district.

In the neighborhood of Warwick and from thence to Wyoming, the crops continue to be well above average. The farming nearer Wyoming is slightly more intensive, although cattle-raising is still the outstanding industry. At this point on the trip an improvement was noticed in the apple crop, although here, as elsewhere, some orchards are practically devoid of fruit.

In the Wyoming section, and south to Petrolia, the clover crop is good and the second cutting should be a profitable one, provided that weather conditions will allow of the harvesting of this crop.

Before reaching Wyoming, excellent crops of corn and splendid fields of clover were seen on the farms of D. Conklin, C. Hodgins, and Henry Kerton.

Before leaving the Wyoming district, it may be of interest to note that in searching for additional branches of revenue the farmers have become restaurateurs, and the roadside there bristles with signs inviting the tourists to abandon his reckless career and rest, dine, or overhaul his car. The selling of cut flowers is also a new sideline in that section, and some of the farmers' wives are making this a source of extra pin money.

Throughout the whole of district seven a considerable acreage of man-

golds has been set out, and at the present time this crop promises a fairly heavy yield, although not so good as the Kent and Essex crops.

Silver Fox Farm.
At Wyoming the chance to visit a silver fox farm presented itself and a surprise occurred when, in inspecting the plant of Sam Lucas, not only a fox farm was seen, but a regular zoo was discovered which in some respects outshines the London municipal zoo at Springbank. Here The Advertiser representative saw pheasants, skunks reared in captivity, alligators, and a monkey-faced owl, considered by naturalists as a very rare bird. A large eagle, which was captured on Mr. Lucas' farm in 1912, is quite evidently lord of the birds on that ranch.

From Wyoming to Petrolia, the land is scarcely as good as that seen along the Sarnia road, although some of the lighter land is being profitably cultivated in small truck.

In the oil district surrounding Petrolia some excellent black muck can be seen, and in visiting this section one wonders why the cultivation of celery has not become more extensive, the soil in places rivaling the best found in the celery district near Theford.

On all of the farms for miles around Petrolia can be seen oil derricks and pumps, and as most of the farmers in the district draw a revenue from the oil as well as from their farming, the district is a prosperous one. The fact that many of the farmers are employed in the oil industry may have some bearing on the lack of diversity in the farming scheme of the district.

Wheat and oats are the principle grain crops of this district, and the harvest has been an abundant one. The oats for the most part have been taken from the field, although in some instances the wet weather has prevented this.

Particularly good crops of oats have been harvested on the farms of H. Huckle, J. McPherson and E. Tolbridge.

In passing from Petrolia to Sarnia, an increase in the number of dairy cattle is evident, and the herds found in the Sarnia district include some fine Holsteins. Elsewhere in district seven the cattle are for the most part beef types, and Herefords and Shorthorns are about equally divided in popularity.

In the immediate vicinity of Sarnia both on the Florence Toll road and along the London road, one sees splendid market, and raspberries and strawberries for local use and for shipment form the staple crops of the small holders in this section.

Goodison Farm.
Leaving Sarnia on the London road and before striking off on the Forest and Goodison diversion one passes the Goodison Farm. This is a model farm in the strictest sense of the word, and the abundant crops and orderly appearances of the buildings and equipment speak volumes for the management of this estate.

Among the market gardens seen in this section those of W. H. Blunden, J. T. Parr, F. W. Egan, and J. Joynt looked particularly fine, the abundant moisture of the past few weeks adding greatly to the thriving appearance of the small fruit plantations and also to the cabbage and cauliflower crops, which are rapidly attaining perfection.

In passing from the Sarnia Gravel road in the direction of Camlachie and Forest, the country changes once more into a grazing district, with large pasture fields, alternating with extensive orchards and occasional fields of roots.

Throughout this section, which lies close to Lake Huron, one seems to have entered another province. Glimpses of the blue waters of the lake and the natural beauty of a countryside, which is broken by hill and dale, relieves the monotony of highway travel, which although affording excellent travel, tends to be somewhat irksome from the straight severity of the roads, which extend for miles without break or curve.

Fine Herds.
In the district surrounding Camlachie, fine herds of cattle are the rule, and the stock seems to be fairly well bred and culled. The orchards

CROPS VIE WITH CATTLE TO MAKE FARMERS RICH

Splendid Results From Mixed Farming Obtained in Glencoe-Watford District, Where Cattle Graze On the Innumerable Hills, and Where Almost Every Known Crop Is Found.

POULTRY, INCLUDING TURKEYS, THRIVE

DISTRICT EIGHT.

District eight takes in the Glencoe-Watford area, where beef cattle, brings wealth to the farmer.

The eighth district of The London Advertiser crop survey comprises that country extending in a broad belt from Wood Green, on the Longwoods road, to the shore of Lake Huron. In this district, which is well known as a grazing country, are situated the towns of Glencoe, Alvinston, Watford, Ailsa Craig and Parkhill.

In travelling this section of Western Ontario, one is impressed with the fact that although extensive cattle-raising is usually associated with cheap lands and natural meadows which could not be put under intensive cultivation, in this section the reverse is the case, for here one finds cattle-raising, and not dairying, the backbone of the farm livelihood. The soil for the most part is a clay loam, which small sections of the country varies from medium loam to really stiff clay.

With the exception of the land just west and north of Watford, the country presents a rolling appearance, broken in places by hill land, and interspersed with streams and brooks. It is a pleasant country, and the fine homes and well-kept appearance of the countryside tell a tale of steady prosperity and contented homes.

Busy Harvesting.
The district was entered from Wood Green and the route followed touched the district towns and villages from that point to Parkhill. On approaching Glencoe, one sees a picture of busy harvesting. In most cases the grain has been brought in from the fields, and the threshers are working at high pressure to wind up the oat threshing before silo filling claims their attention.

From the Longwoods road to Glencoe, fine crops of all sorts were noticed on the farms of D. Machlin, J. C. Machlin and M. C. McNeil. A good crop of apples, a real variety this fall, was noticed on the farm of Thomas Thorne.

Along this portion of this route, excellent crops of sugar beets and mangolds could be seen, and the clover for the most part is excellent. The corn crop is varied in character, some fields showing a heavy stand of well-grown corn, while other fields quite close by carried little more than half a crop.

Throughout the whole of section eight, the preparation of the fall wheat land is engaging the attention of all the farmers who are not working with the threshing gangs.

Oat Crop Good.
The oat crop between Glencoe and Alvinston is particularly good, and while there are a few yields which are only average, most of the farms will turn out over 40 bushels to the acre, and others will reach 50 bushels. Fall wheat is also good and has outstripped early predictions, some farmers reporting yields in the neighborhood of 40 bushels. All small grains are an excellent sample, though some of the farmers who have been forced by the weather to thresh have misgivings as to the keeping and storing quality of the grain, which, they state, holds an excessive amount of moisture.

In turning towards Alvinston, one enters a more rugged country, the land to the east of the village and near the village itself being much cut up into deep gullies and ravines. At this point some excellent natural meadows can be seen, although the land for the most part is good arable soil, and a goodly proportion is kept under the plow.

Heavy Clover Yield.
The clover near Alvinston is exceptionally good, and in one field which was being cut the owner

here, too, are large ones, and the farmers operating them are evidently progressive, spraying being the rule and untidy or neglected orchards the exception.

The small grain crops hereabouts are threshing out well up to the standard of the balance of the district, and the straw is exceptionally long.

The apple crop in this district, as stated before, is a very fair one, although some of the winter varieties are extremely light. Most of the growers of the district from Camlachie to Forest are optimistic over the apple situation, in so far as it concerns them, feeling, no doubt that even with a short crop, their returns are likely to be very satisfactory on account of the scarcity of apples throughout the whole province.

stated that he thought this second cutting would yield two tons or better per acre. Sheep-raising is this section is an important factor in the farming scheme, and some fine flocks of Border Leicesters were seen. The pastures are in good shape and the cattle and stock generally is looking very sleek.

Large straw stacks and a heavy stubble gave evidence of a heavy crop on the farms of D. B. Ferguson and Donald McArthur, and in fact on all of the land in the Alvinston area. This country is stocked with very good farm horses, the Clyde type leading in popularity, and poor horses are a sight seldom seen.

In leaving Alvinston the farms of Colin Walker and A. C. Walker were seen, and on the latter a splendid apiary was noticed. A fine crop of beans, which are nearing maturity, was seen in passing the farm of W. R. Dolbear, and were the first noticed after leaving the Longwoods road.

Apples Light This Year
The apple crop throughout the whole of this section is very light, while in the lake shore district to the north of Parkhill some varieties are a very fine crop.

In leaving Alvinston and approaching Watford the country flattens out somewhat and larger acreages of grain and corn are noticed. Here the corn crop appears to be pretty well up to the average, and in some instances the yield of strictly silage kinds will be quite heavy.

In the Watford district the crops are as good as those seen anywhere, with the exception of Kent and Essex counties, and the farmers throughout the district state that small grains are a bumper crop.

Near Watford some fine flocks of turkeys were noticed, one flock in particular running nearly fifty birds. This stands out in marked contrast to the other districts visited, where turkeys were few and far between. The flock on the farm of James Lett was one of the best and biggest seen.

From Watford the route was abandoned for time in order to allow a short run toward Strathroy and Adelaide.

Grass and Pasture.
Leaving Watford and travelling due east, one crosses a level country in which much of the land is given over to grass and pasture. The farms in this district are for the most part large ones, and the cultivated land balances the large tracts of hay and grazing land.

Cattle rising, from a beef standpoint, is the big item in most of the farms there, and some splendid beef cattle were seen, these giving place to a few scattered dairy herds in the Strathroy and Adelaide district. The crops still standing and in process of being threshed on the farms of J. E. Collier, Jas. Wynn, John Stirling and L. C. Reycraft give a prosperous appearance to the land adjoining the route followed.

Sheep are plentiful in this section and those seen grazing on the farm of T. H. Fuller gave evidence of the good grazing that has been their lot during this season.

Exceptionally Good Roads
A striking feature of this particular trip was the splendid condition of most of the sideroads and concessions which were followed through district eight. The roads are for the most part narrow ones, but the condition of the surface affords excellent travelling, which stands out in contrast to the rough pitted surface found on the much used highways and truck roads, where it is next to impossible to keep the surface in a satisfactory state.

Parkhill District Visited
The next section visited was that country surrounding Parkhill. From Strathroy to Parkhill, the country varies little. The soil is very similar to that seen along the earlier part of the route and with few exceptions the crops are identical with those grown in the Glencoe and Alvinston districts. As one travels farther north in district eight, a difference in the maturity of the crops and the difference in the time of harvest can be noticed quite distinctly.

In the Glencoe section the harvest is well advanced, and in many instances threshing is all but completed. As one nears Parkhill, the crops which are still standing, such as buckwheat, corn and beans, growth is not completed.

Another difference which can be noticed is that, while Glencoe and Alvinston little damage has been felt

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from frost, some of the corn fields in the neighborhood of Parkhill have been nipped rather severely.

In the Parkhill district cattle are the outstanding feature, and in the country lying between Parkhill and Ailsa Craig, some splendid herds of beef type Shorthorns and also some Herefords were passed.

Heavy Grain Yield.
The grain harvest here, although not so far advanced as farther to the south, is resulting in heavy yields, the crops turning out from forty to fifty bushels of oats, with fall wheat averaging close also to thirty-five bushels. Corn also is fairly good, though some fields, as stated before, show evidence of having been touched with frost.

From Parkhill the return journey was made through the well-known stock country around Ailsa Craig. This part of the countryside was viewed with particular interest on account of the fame which Ailsa Craig has attained in becoming one of the largest cattle shipping centers in the whole Dominion.

Little difference was noticed in the manner of farming to other points touched in district eight, unless that a more distinctly beef type of cattle is raised, while elsewhere the cattle range from beef type to the dual-purpose Shorthorn, from which an income along dairy lines could be expected.

All's a Craig Contented.
The crops in the Ailsa Craig district are splendid, and the farmers feel well content with the harvest, albeit there is a tendency to cuss the rains, which while well enough in the growing season, are playing havoc with the oat harvest and the farmers' patience.

The crops seen on the farms of Robert Armstrong, George Johnston and others in this section were particularly good, and the corn on most farms is above an average yield.

The poultry department on most of the farms in district eight is evidently a profitable branch of farming, for, while commercial poultry farms are conspicuous by their absence, nearly all of the farms seen boasted large flocks of chickens, with the Barred Rock leading in numbers and White Leghorns a close second.

District eight was left at Lucan crossing, and the return journey made through Ilderton.

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