



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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FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

A Pleasant Week End With Mr. G. A. Brethen

Something of the Great Cows and Great Crops That Are Grown at Hillcrest—By the Editor

WHAT to do with myself over the last week end was somewhat of a puzzle. For over a year every week end has been spent on my own farm in Halton county, doing the necessary chores of a dairy farm, attending the country church and associating with country people. Last Saturday, however, found me in Peterboro' with the prospect of a week-end in the city (where my week days are also spent), and the prospect did not prove alluring. Going to the country for Sunday had become a habit. In this extremity I remembered that it was over two years since I had spent a day with Mr. G. A. Brethen of Norwood. Now Norwood, where the Hillcrest Farm is located, is just 20 miles from Peterboro' by rail. Mr. Brethen was called up and the noon train on Saturday found me on my way. The walk out to the farm, on one of the rare warm days of this spring, was enjoyed hugely. Everywhere the fresh new life of spring was in evidence; the grass was tender and green, the trees were just beginning to spring into life and as our best songsters have already returned from their winter homes, the birds were caroling joyfully. What a contrast with the city office, where of necessity, even a farm editor must spend the most of his time. The walk of a mile and a half ended only too soon and I found myself at Hillcrest Farm, a model of efficiency, even as Hillcrest people are models of hospitality, a combination to make any week-end there a pleasure. But it is of the farm principally that I wish to write.

Hillcrest Farm affords strong evidence that many acres are not an essential to success in dairy farming; that right management is of more importance than acreage. There are just 98 acres in the farm, all clear, and 66 in the rotation. The farm carries 50 head of pure bred Holsteins, a large percentage of them mature, four work horses and only the concentrates are purchased. Labor is used efficiently, and the farm income last year for both cream and live stock was very close to the \$10,000 mark. Surely this is the story of success worth while.

A Three-Year Rotation.

The rotation followed is a three-year one, although, of course, as every practical farmer knows, seasons will interfere and Mr. Brethen cannot follow exactly the system that he has laid out for his farm. "In an average year about 20 acres are devoted to hoe crops; 14 acres in corn, five or six in roots, and about an acre in potatoes. The corn crop is the standby. One year, from 12 acres, Mr. Brethen filled and re-filled his two silos, 11 x 33 and 12 x 41 feet, and had 27 loads of corn left over in the stock. The variety was the Improved Learning. That same year he had 5,000 bushels of roots, principally turnips; like all other dairy breeders, who feed

extensively, the proprietor of Hillcrest attaches great value to this crop. His root house has a capacity of just 1,000 bushels. The rest of the crop is pitted in the field and the supply in the root house replenished on mild winter days as necessity dictates. The Giant White Sugar mangel has given particularly good satisfaction on this farm; it is a heavy yielder, easily harvested and tests six per cent. of sugar content.

Only enough grain is grown to keep the farm seeded down. The acreage therefore is much less than on most farms of the size, but even last year 1,000 bushels of mixed grain were threshed, the threshing lasting all day and until eight o'clock at night. This crop was taken from 16 acres of mixed oats and barley, the seed mixed in the proportion of one bushel of each by weight and seeded at the rate of one bushel and three pecks to the acre. The seed is always treated with formalin to prevent smut and harvested just a little on the green side, so that the straw will be of maximum feeding value. The hay crop is a mixture of clover and alfalfa, and the sod remains down just one year.



Our Building Number Next Week

NEXT week we will issue the First Annual Farm Buildings Number of Farm and Dairy. It is our maiden attempt at a number of this kind, but the editors have endeavored to make it an encyclopaedia of information for the prospective builder. The construction of the plank frame barn, the installation of ventilation systems, and the interior layout of stables will all be described and abundantly illustrated by our new associate editor, Thomas Heatherington, B.S.A., who, during the past year, has been making a special study of the subject of barn construction. J. A. Ste. Marie, Assistant Dominion Animal Husbandman, will submit plans for an ideal dairy barn, especially designed to minimize labor. "What Type of Silo Shall I Build?" is the suggestive title of an article by the editor. Other articles, practically all accompanied by diagrams, deal with the merits of the round barn, the construction of smaller farm outbuildings, and other subjects of interest to the farm builder. It is our earnest hope that this, our first number of the kind, will prove of service to Our Folks.

Of course with this acreage supporting 54 head of live stock, and many tons of concentrates purchased every season, the productivity of the farm is continually increasing, a case of growing more feed to feed more Holsteins, to make more manure, to grow more feed to feed more Holsteins, etc., etc. And this system of soil building, by the way, is the true basis of all agricultural prosperity.

Four-Horse Teams.

The farm work is done so far as possible with four-horse teams. One of the first things that I beheld when I arrived on the farm, was a big cutaway disc harrow with all four horses attached, churning up the soil in great style. A 12-acre field was worked up with the harrow that day. The division of labor is ideal. Because of the large implements used, one man can do almost all of the field work. The proprietor holds himself free to give his live stock his almost undivided attention, while they are stabled. The man, on the other hand, is not worried with chores, both before and after his day's work. Once his horses are stabled and attended to for the night, his day's work is done. The herd on the other hand, does not suffer from inattention, as would be the case were the proprietor to attempt to do a large share of the field work as well.

The work in the barns at Hillcrest is also simplified by labor saving machinery. His milking machine, of which Mr. Brethen wrote in the Farm Machinery number of Farm and Dairy, is giving excellent satisfaction. The small gasoline engine, which supplies the power to run the milking machine, also turns the cream separator and pumps the roots. Just how much need there is for mechanical aid for milking and separating we may judge from the fact that Mr. Brethen is the largest patron of the Toronto Creamery Company, and at some seasons of the year ships over a can a day of 35 per cent. cream. This cream is sweet, and, of course, demands a premium on that account.

It is the Hillcrest Holsteins, however, that have made Hillcrest Farm and its proprietor, known from one end of Canada to the other. When we think of Hillcrest we immediately think of such great cows, as DeKol Mutual Countesses, that held no less than four world's records for milk and fat production, her mother, Rauwerd Count DeKol Lady Pauline, the only Canadian cow to produce 29,000 lbs. of milk in a year, and their numerous descendants, which now compose the major portion of the herd, and which are continually piling up new Canadian records. Mr. Brethen is a breeder, not a dealer. In his herd there are only three cows that are not of his own breeding, two of his foundation cows and one purchased since. When he spends money on

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