

John Dryden, M. P. P.

The subject of this sketch was born June 5th, 1840, on the farm where he now resides, which then comprised 180 acres, and is situated on lot 20, 7th concession, Whitby, county of Ontario. The school house being near by he was sent to school at the early age of three years. When five years old he had learned to read easy lessons in the New Testament. His father having only a meagre education, and keenly realizing his lack, determined that the son should have all the advantages in this line the schools then afforded. He was accordingly kept steadily at school, making rapid advances and being always a favorite among his class mates and teachers. At the age of sixteen, having been out of public school for some time, he was sent to what was then called the Whitby Grammar School, taught by William McCabe, now manager of one of the Life Insurance Companies of Toronto. Here he continued his studies for a year and a half, taking first place in nearly every subject, and completing the usual course then taken at these schools. His teacher pressed very hard that he should matriculate at the University, and take the course then provided in agriculture, guaranteeing him to obtain the scholarship of \$120 offered at that time in this department. But Mr. Dryden's fondness for the farm and his desire to enter again upon his chosen occupation, caused him to refuse, and so ended his school life.

From his earliest days he has had a fondness for rural scenes and the farmer's life. Naturally fond of live stock, he early manifested a desire to have some of the best specimens upon the farm. To this his father resolutely objected, declaring that these were no better than such as they already possessed, providing both were fed the same, and it was not until many years had elapsed that he was prevailed upon to make his first purchase. This consisted of a bull under one year, which was, as might be expected, given to the care of the son. The bull was kept in the same stable and treated in every respect similar to the ordinary calves upon the farm, but the rapid growth and perfect development of this animal, in comparison with the others, convinced the father that his former idea was a mistake. He was then willing to make the purchase of a heifer, and soon afterwards a cow and calf, which was the starting point of the present large herd of Shorthorns. At the age of twenty-one the farm—to which had been added fifty acres—was passed from his father's control to be worked by the son on shares. This continued for two years, when the arrangement, proving unsatisfactory to both parties, was broken up and a full annual rent was afterwards paid until the father's death, in 1881.

Shortly after he entered into this arrangement he rented his uncle's farm of 170 acres, lying adjacent to his own, and a few years later another lot of 95 acres. The land was held thus for seven years, when he became the purchaser. Sixty-five acres lying too remote from the farm buildings was disposed of and the balance constitutes his present farm. It lies in a block, is pleasantly situated, and contains some of the choicest land to be found in that fine agricultural district. Two public roads, running either way, divide the farm into four parts. On each side of one of these roads maple trees were planted many years ago and the farm has therefore been named "Maple Shade."

It is not too much to say that Mr. Dryden is an enthusiastic farmer, taking a pride in every department of the farm. The farm itself be-

herd of Amos Cruickshank, Aberleenshire, Scotland. The last purchase in this direction being the entire herd of Mr. Cruickshank's nephew.

In stock breeding, Mr. Dryden believes in working for a definite object, with an ideal always before him, and any one who views his sheep or cattle will be convinced that he has accomplished his purpose. In uniformity and flesh producing qualities they can scarcely be excelled. His herd has furnished its fair quota of prize taking animals, which have been shown with marked success, not only in Ontario, but also in Manitoba and the United States.

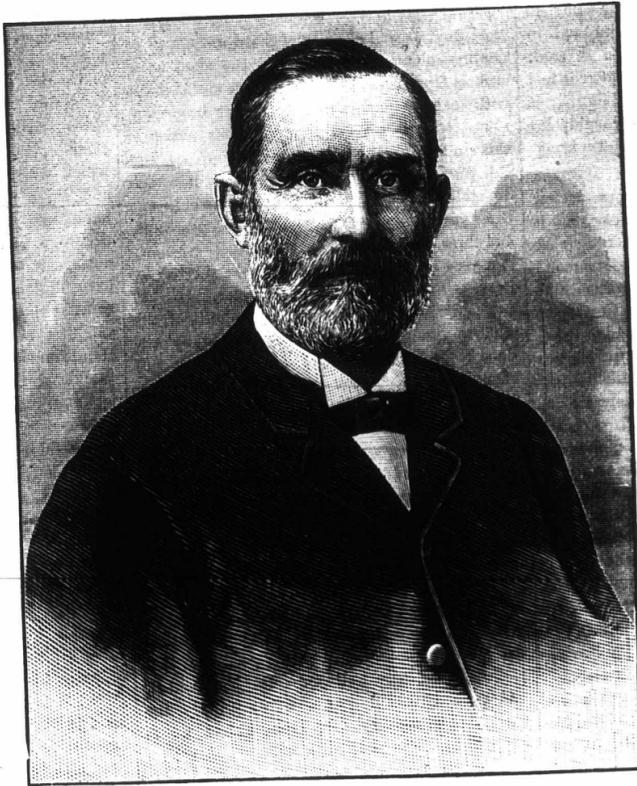
Excellence, however, is not seen merely among the Shorthorns, but horses, sheep, pigs and poultry all manifest the same skill and careful attention. The theory practiced at Maple Shade is, that it pays to produce in all these lines only by the best.

Mr. Dryden has continuously served the public in different capacities since he reached the age of twenty-one. As Secretary-Treasurer of his school section, President of the County Agricultural Society, Reeve or Deputy-Reeve of his township, he has manifested that interest in public affairs which finally placed him in the position he at present occupies. Under his management the Agricultural Society of South Ontario reached the zenith of its usefulness. During that time sheds and stables were erected on the grounds and order and system were inaugurated in every department.

In January, 1864, he was first elected to the Municipal Council. His first speech on that occasion was given with that frankness and honesty which has characterized his entire public career, and was so well received by the people that he was placed by long odds at the head of the poll. At the first meeting of the Council he was elected to the position of Deputy-Reeve, continuing in this place or that of Reeve for many years, when he voluntarily retired. During this period his name was frequently mentioned as a candidate for parliamentary honors. His ambition not lying in that direction, he refused to accept the honor. Being again and again urged by his numerous friends in 1879 he consented to contest the riding with the former representative, N. W. Brown. At this time the riding was represented by

conservatives in both Houses. Mr. Dryden's personal popularity and honesty of purpose placed him, after a hard fought battle, at the head of the poll, and among his farmer friends throughout the riding there was great rejoicing and mutual congratulations. At every election since that time he has been vigorously opposed, but after eleven years of public life his popularity remains the same, and he still holds the place as representative of the riding in the Local Legislature.

All the stock associations of the country have been more or less aided and encouraged by his presence and influence. He has been the honored President of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association since its inception. He is now the Vice-President of the American Shropshire Association. He has written a good deal for the agricultural journals, and has latterly spent much time in addressing Farmers' Institutes. He is intensely practical, and is always well received and much appreciated. He is in the fullest sense a representative farmer, and is an honor to his calling.



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speaks the care and skill with which it has been managed. Everything is done upon the farm in the most approved manner. No part of the work is shirked, everything which is done being well done. The result is that the crops at Maple Shade are never behind those of the district. For the last thirty years tile drainage has occupied Mr. Dryden's attention, and at a Farmers' Institute meeting the other day he was heard to remark that this season he had completed his last field. Many hundreds of dollars have been spent in this work, but Mr. Dryden always claims it has given him ample returns for the outlay. But little needs to be said about his career as a breeder and importer of pedigree stock. His name and his fame have gone abroad, not merely in his own county and province, but in every state of the American Union as well. To the nucleus originally started by his father, under the son's guidance, he has repeatedly added importations from the renowned