



FARM AND DAIRY



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

& RURAL HOME

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada

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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From City Wage-Earner to Successful Farmer

The Story of How an English Printer is Making Good on a Canadian Farm

WHEN a man leaves a paying trade to take up farming there must be good reason for it. He must see in his new vocation prospects of better conditions of living than in the old. Many men who had made this "back-to-the-land" move have met with disappointment, but there are many who have undertaken their new work with such zeal and intelligence that in a short time they have become conspicuously successful in it. One of these is Mr. Harry Barrett, Victoria Co., Ont., upon whom I recently called. After spending an hour or so talking with him, I was convinced of his wisdom in becoming a farmer, first, because of the independent living being derived from the farm by himself and family, and secondly, because he is building for himself a profitable and congenial business, and at the same time adding something of value to Canadian agriculture.

Getting Experience.

Eleven years ago Mr. Barrett came to Canada as a young man with seven years' experience in the printing trade as his only asset. He was directed for employment to a dairy farm in Victoria county. On this farm cows were kept, not for consumption of food and the privilege of attending to them, but for profit. The hired men were expected to earn their wages, and at the same time to learn as much as possible about the business. If they proved worthy of the opportunities presented to them they were welcome to remain as long as it was mutually agreeable. For a year and a half Mr. Barrett worked upon this farm. By careful, persistent application to his work, and by the study of all available agricultural literature, he learned the fundamentals of the dairy business. This knowledge consisted not only of how to milk and feed cows and to clean stables, but included also the growing of crops for fodder purposes; the handling of these crops to insure the best quality of feed; the treatment of the soil to get the largest returns, and other subjects of equal value to the practical farmer.

During the next two and a half years Mr. Barrett went out West twice, worked one year at his trade in Toronto, and spent some time on the farm with his first employer. "As for the West," he said, "I have no fault to find with it, but I decided that Ontario was the best place for me, so I got married and settled in Toronto. For the next year and a half I worked steadily at my trade, and at the end of that time was getting \$17 a week. We saved a little, because we made ourselves do it. It would have been easy to have spent it all, far easier than to save. All the time we kept planning for the future. Finally we decided that, at the end of 10 years, we would be

By W. G. ORVIS, Associate Editor,
Farm and Dairy.

further on the road to prosperity on a farm than in the city."

A Start Made.

Mr. Barrett came back to work for his old employer for one year so that he could rent a farm and get some stock together. He was fortunate in securing a hundred acre farm directly across the road from where he worked, and at auction sales in the fall he bought three horses, six grade

cows and the necessary implements. A brother of Mr. Barrett's, who had been in Canada for several years, joined forces with him in this venture, their combined capital being \$1,500 cash. This money paid for most of the things purchased and tided them over the period until they reaped their first harvest. Seed grain was high, as they had to pay \$1 a bushel for barley and prices for other grains were correspondingly high.

The brothers planned to follow the same line of farming as that followed by their former employer, and they also adopted some of the methods they had seen worked out so successfully on his farm. They cherished the hope, still unrealized, that some day they would own a farm where they could practise with full liberty the line of farming which they wished to follow. Another ambition was to have a high class utility herd of Guernsey cows. This has been almost realized, for as soon as some of the younger animals reach maturity the most critical will be satisfied on this point. After three years of harmonious work, the brother, who was a reservist and unmarried, left for the front, and Mr. Harry Barrett was left to continue the work they had begun.

The Herd Founded.

The first cows bought were not of the kind desired, and Mr. Barrett gradually disposed of them. Meanwhile he bought a Guernsey heifer, three years old, from his neighbor, and a year later a Guernsey cow for \$112.50 and a two-year old heifer for \$75 from the same man. These are the foundation cows of the present herd of high testing Guernseys.

When I asked him why he liked the Guernseys, he said: "Because they are bigger than the Jerseys and give a richer colored milk. I like the breed for the cream trade, and that is the trade in which I intend to specialize. The Guernsey cow will give me good returns for food consumed and for labor expended and then—I like them." These last words are surely true. His cows show it: They did not run from me when I went into the pasture field as cows do on many farms, but crowded around in an interested manner, showing that they had not been ill-treated, but were well used by their owner.

As proof of the producing ability of Mr. Barrett's herd I secured the following information from the local recorder of the Dairy Division:

The average per cent. of butter fat of the milk produced since the first of the year by this herd is 4.93. One cow, named Cherry, gave 3,575 lbs. of milk in three months, with an average test of 4.5 and yielding 161.5 lbs. of butter fat. Another, named Dairymaid, gave 9,260 lbs. milk in six and one-half months, with an average test of 5.3



The War on Weeds

THE cooperative experimental work in weed eradication, carried on by the Ontario Experimental Union for the last four years, has been valuable as a source of data from which definite statements can be made regarding the best methods of controlling some of our worst weeds. The practical farmers who carried on the work demonstrated to their own satisfaction the effectiveness of the methods used. The following information has been gained from these cooperative weed experiments:

That good cultivation, followed by rape sown in drills, provides a means of eradicating both perennial sow thistle and twitch grass.

That rape is a more satisfactory crop to use in the destruction of twitch grass than buckwheat.

That rape gives much better results in the eradication of twitch grass and perennial sow thistle when sown in drills and cultivated than it does when sown broadcast.

That through deep cultivation in fall and spring followed by a well cared for hoed crop will destroy bladder campion.

That mustard may be prevented from seeding in oats, wheat and barley by spraying with a twenty per cent. solution of iron sulphate without any serious injury to the standing crop or to the fresh seedlings of clover.