

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

Something of the Farm and Farming Methods of Geo. R. Barrie & Son—By F. E. Ellis

It is a delightful drive from the pleasantly situated town of Galt out through the rolling country traversed by the Cedar Creek road, to the farm of Geo. R. Barrie & Son; doubly delightful in early June when everything is at its freshest and best. What farmer is there who does not appreciate the new life that is then in evidence on every hand. The varied shades of green on tree and lawn and pasture, the spring grains just hiding the brown of the fields, even the smell of the newly turned soil in the corn field, are like wine in their exhilarating influence on the real farmer, the man who farms because he loves to work with growing things. We farmers don't talk much about the wonders of nature around us; more of us are gifted with the poet's soul than with the poet's power of expression. But appreciation of the country will find expression somehow, and Mr. Barrie's response for all of us when he said with all of the enthusiasm of his 60 or 70 summers,—"Say, there is no place like the farm, is there?" Then he added,—"I go to Toronto and stand on Yonge street, and the hurly-burly and racket are enough to deafen and daze one. Then I come back to the country more content than ever with my occupation."

With the telephone, the rural mail and the automobile, what more could one want than a home in the country? Mr. Barrie has reached the age when most farmers are ready to retire, with their choice limited to a home in the town or village, or of building a cottage for themselves on a pleasant corner of the old home farm. Mr. Barrie, however, is doing neither. He has found a better way. He is staying right on in the old place where he has lived for 50 years or more, the place which, by all its associations, is home to him in a sense that no other home could be. A new house has been built for the junior partner on a pleasant site in the orchard just across the drive from the old home and the firm is now known as Geo. R. Barrie & Son. This is a real partnership, such as is not always possible, but is always desirable. In recent years the son, Mr. W. C. Barrie, president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, has achieved a reputation of his own as a farmer and seed grower and the old farm, under the dual management, is going as it never went before. It was the reputation of the Barries as farmers, quite as much as their mechanical devices of which I had heard, and which have already been described in Farm and Dairy, that led to this visit last spring.

This farm is divided into two 100-acre blocks on opposite sides of the road. The land is gently rolling, a condition which makes drainage easy, but does not interfere with the ease of cultivation. The rich loam is not too heavy to work nicely and is adapted to a wider range of crops than the heavier clays of the more northerly townships of Waterloo county. One hundred and seventy acres of the 260 in the farm are under the plow, thirty acres are in bush. The rotation usually followed covers five years. The hoe crop of roots and corn is followed by barley, the barley by fall wheat seeded down and one or two crops of hay or wheat and pasture. This is not an exact schedule. The cropping system is adapted to the particular

requirements of each year. The rotation merely indicates the general plan followed. The fields on the farm have been enlarged as wider working implements became available and as we looked over a stretch of 22 acres, unbroken by fence or ditch, Mr. Barrie remarked: "This was originally two fields with a lane continuing down to take in the second field. We save one-third of a mile of fencing and one-quarter of an acre of ground by putting the whole in one field."

### The Hoe Crops.

As might be expected in Waterloo county, where big silos are one of the main features of the landscape, the main hoe crop is corn. On the Barrie farm there are two silos, a round, stave silo 26 x 16 feet, which is always filled eight or ten feet above the top by standing boards around the outside, and an old-fashioned square silo with nine and one-half

of course, are made with a one-horse scuffer, we do not go near the plants and we cultivate very, very shallow. Cultivation at all deeply would probably, as you say, injure the roots and do more harm than good.

The Barries have their own power and own their own cutting box. "We have taken our corn in without outside help," said Mr. Barrie, Jr. "We would take two teams to the field, cut the corn by hand and load directly on to the wagon. Then we would come in and run the two loads through the cutting box. We have filled our large silo in five days in this way. It gives the corn time to settle and when the silo is full it stays full. Usually, however, we have our neighbors to help us, we fill the silos in a hurry and then return the help."

"It means a lot of heavy work but ensilage is grand feed when you get it," supplemented Mr. Barrie, Sr. "We used to grow seven acres of turnips on this farm. It was a lot more work to grow and store turnips than to grow and store the corn, and all through the winter there was a lot more work in palping turnips than there is in getting ensilage out of the silo."

### Potatoes a Cash Crop.

Potatoes have proven a satisfactory cash crop on this farm, but the area is never allowed to be great enough to call for an increase in the working staff. Usually about two acres are grown. A clover sod is plowed down for potatoes, which has been manured the previous winter. Spring plowing is always insisted on for this crop as the tubers require a loose soil in which to develop. After plowing, the soil is worked up with a disc harrow, followed by the drag

arrow and roller and then the seed is planted on the level with the home-made potato planter already described in Farm and Dairy. The two acres are planted in about three hours and the land is thoroughly harrowed, partly to make sure that all the seed is covered, but more especially to leave a fine soil mulch on the surface. The drag harrows are used frequently while the potatoes are coming up and until they are a few inches high. Then the cultivator is started and kept going all through the season. "We believe," said Mr. W. C. Barrie, "that every extra harrowing and every extra cultivation adds enough bushels to the crop to make the work profitable."

A power spraying machine is a part of the farm equipment and last year the crop was sprayed five times, three times for blight and a couple of times, sulphur in the season, for bugs. Bordeaux mixture made on the 4-4-4 formula (4 lbs. lime, 4 lbs. copper sulfate and 40 gallons of water), is used for combating blight. Arsenate of lead, two pounds to 45 gallons of water, is used to kill the bugs. With this thorough spraying losses from rot are negligible. Another cash crop is sugar beets. A couple of acres are grown for the refinery at Kitchener.

### The Seed Grain Business.

There are two grain crops in the rotation and these crops provide a considerable proportion of the cash income. Years ago the Barries recognized the value of selected seed and began to improve their seed for their own use. It was just one step more



"The Old Home is surrounded by Trees and Lawns the Result of 60 Years of Planting and Improvement."

foot sides. Only eight-acres of corn are grown, but the crop is almost invariably a heavy one. In the Standing Field Crops Competition they secured first prize on corn three years ago and second prize for two years in succession, last year being only one-half point below the winning field. The variety raised last year was Clout's Early, one of the mammoth types that is quite popular in Waterloo county, several farmers whom I visited mentioning this variety as a favorite. It is not so popular with the barries, however. "It grew a tremendous crop," Mr. W. C. Barrie told me, "but it did not get mature enough to make the best kind of ensilage. Also it is too heavy to handle. Our preference is for Wisconsin No. 7 as a general purpose corn."

"Do you check or drill your corn?" I asked. "We plant with a check row planter and then cultivate both ways," replied Mr. Barrie. "We may not get a bigger crop than we would by drilling, perhaps not quite so big, but we clean the land better and do it mostly with machine work."

Remembering some results of experiments in Illinois wherein it was proved to the satisfaction of the experimenters that late cultivation of corn was not advisable, I asked Mr. Barrie for his opinion on this point. "We cultivate our corn right through the entire season," was the reply. "We cultivated last year for the last time just one week before we filled the silos. In our later cultivations, however, which,