

Issued
Each Week

FARM AND DAIRY

&
RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00
a Year

Vol. XXVIII.

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 21, 1909.

No. 42.

A DAIRY FARM IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY

Some Features of One That is Managed on Business Principles—Underdrainage, Silage and Alfalfa are Important Factors in its Success—In its Management Many Operations are Practised that are Worthy of Adoption Everywhere.

SOME three and a half miles east of Ottawa, on the Montreal road, is Hillsdale Farm, owned and managed by ex-Warden B. Rothwell, of Carleton County. This 340 acre farm is one of the best in Eastern Ontario. It was a silver medal some years ago in one of the old prize farms competitions, and would have stood high had it been entered in the dairy farms competition being conducted this year in Ontario by Farm and Dairy.

While Mr. Rothwell raises some fine horses and has an exceptionally fine hackney stallion, that was illustrated on the front cover of Farm and Dairy for February 25, 1909, the chief feature of this farm is its dairy herd. Mr. Rothwell believes in farming for profit. He does not guess at the amount of milk his cows are producing nor presume that they are paying him. He knows that they are. When they are not he soon gets rid of them.

Mr. Rothwell does not consider a cow a good one, unless she is capable of giving 8,000 lbs. of milk, testing not less than 3.8 per cent, a year in her four year old form. Such a cow he considers worth \$100 and cheap at that. When Hillsdale Farm was visited recently by an editor of Farm and Dairy, 56 cows in the herd were averaging over 30 lbs. of milk a day. The milk was sold in Ottawa. One hundred and seventy-two gallons had been sent to the city in one day. Last year the average value of the milk from each cow in the herd was \$110. The milk was sold at unusually good prices, as Mr. Rothwell received \$2.00 an eight gallon can for four months in the year. The summer price was \$1.20 a can, Mr. Rothwell said, however, that although milk was \$2.00 a can it was hard to get it owing to the shortage of feed.

WINTER DAIRYING

Winter dairying is followed, the price of milk being higher in winter than in summer. Mr. Rothwell aims to have his cows fresh in the fall. He believes that we are going to see a great revolution in the methods being followed by our dairymen. Ninety per cent. of our dairymen, he says, do not like dairying, because it is a job lasting 265 days every year. Some of them make a little money at it, because they have not had time to spend what money they have made. It having been shown by reliable authorities that the average cow in

the country does not produce more than 3,000 lbs. of milk in a year, and as the average price paid for milk at cheese factories is from 90c to \$1.00 a cwt., it means that the average dairyman cannot receive more than \$27 to \$30 a year from his cows. This, Mr. Rothwell considers, is too dear a way of making manure. The average dairy farmer in Eastern Ontario, he says, is finding this out. He is beginning to keep better cows and to give them better care. "Half our dairymen," said Mr. Rothwell, "fail, because they do not feed their cows liberally enough when the cows are dry. This results in the calves being born with poor digestive organs and puny frames. It is a waste of money to feed such animals.



The Residence of Mr. B. Rothwell and Family, Hillsdale Farm, Carleton County, Ontario

MONEY MAKERS

The two great money makers on a dairy farm, in Mr. Rothwell's opinion, are under draining and silos, with silos, possibly a little in the lead. The one is the sequel of the other. The ground has to be underdrained to grow corn successfully. It cost Mr. Rothwell \$43 an acre, when labor was cheap, to underdrain a large portion of his farm. He believes that it would cost him at least \$10 an acre more now. His underdrains are down three feet, the main drain being six inches in diameter, and the laterals two and a half to three inches. Although some people might think that a saving would have been made had smaller tile been used, Mr. Rothwell does not think so.

Most of the work was done 15 years ago and he

believes that the drains paid for themselves within the first five years and that they will go on paying large dividends for the next century if properly looked after.

THE LABOR PROBLEM

As is the case in every section of the province the farmers in the vicinity of Ottawa are up against the labor problem. For the last six years, Mr. Rothwell has had a half a carload of sile in his shed that he has been unable to have laid on account of his inability to secure men to do the work. He is hoping that the new method of digging drains with traction engines, as described and illustrated in the July 15th issue of Farm and Dairy will prove a success, thereby enabling farmers to have their underdraining done at reasonable expense.

BELIEVES IN ALFALFA

Like most of the rest of our leading dairymen, Mr. Rothwell grows alfalfa. His first crop was sown six years ago. He has never missed a crop and has never inoculated the seed. The land on

which the alfalfa is grown is well drained. Mr. Rothwell is aware of the fact, that alfalfa will not grow where the water line comes near the surface. Next to corn, he considers alfalfa the greatest feed that the dairy farmer can raise. Where there is plenty of alfalfa and ensilage made from well cobbed corn the cows do not seem to miss concentrates. Nevertheless, Mr. Rothwell feeds concentrates heavily. So high is his opinion of the value of alfalfa as a feed, he believes that farmers should pay close attention to its proper curing. The first cut of alfalfa on Hillsdale Farm goes into the silo. It ensiloes well and makes a nice, rich, palatable food. Owing to the dampness, it sometimes is hard to cure the first cut. When in Ohio a year ago, Mr. Rothwell found farmers who were putting their first cut of alfalfa in their silos. On the 26th of

June some of these men had had their alfalfa in the silo for a couple of weeks.

A mixture that has been grown successfully on Hillsdale Farm consists of 14 lbs. of clover made up of 8 lbs. of early red clover, 4 lbs. of alfalfa and 2 lbs. of alsike. This is sown with 8 lbs. of timothy. This year, 25 acres of this mixture were grown. Last year, in spite of the dry season, three tons to the acre were cut at each of two cuttings.

Five acres of roots are grown for feed. They are not pulped. Mr. Rothwell believes that it is better to let the cow do her own work. He claims that he would not allow men to cut roots for him for nothing as there is nothing, in his opinion, that a cow likes as well as to scrape out the roots for herself. The value of roots as a food, he believes