

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

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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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A Small Dairy Farm That Yields a Comfortable Living

On Their 75 Acre Farm S. U. Tinkess and His Son Do All Their Own Work—Quit at Six p.m. and Are Enjoying Life As They Go—By S. R. Hodgins

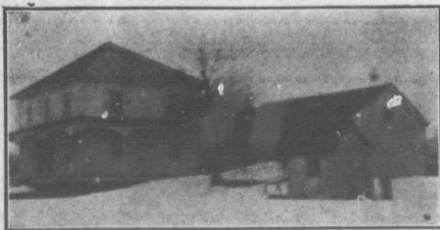
A COUPLE of weeks ago I had the pleasure of spending a day on the Tinkess Stock Farm in Stormont Co., Ont., and I must confess that I came away much interested in the small dairy farm idea. The Tinkess stock farm comprises but 75 acres, nor is it the home of a very large dairy herd, only 13 to 17 milkers being kept. Yet on it Mr. S. U. Tinkess and his married son find plenty of employment the year round, and from it they receive a comfortable living. They are not so overburdened with work and worry as to be discouraged with dairying—a common state of affairs to be found on the larger dairy establishments. On the contrary they are enthusiastic over their work. They quit at six o'clock each night the year round; they have milk cheques coming in every month and with the aid of a Ford car they extract their share of enjoyment from life. And how shall the contentment which they derive from their farming operations be made to appear in their labor income?

First Impressions.

The first thing that strikes the visitor to the Tinkess Stock Farm is its "handiness." The buildings are located right in the centre of the farm on a road which divides the farm "crosswise." This central location for the buildings means much in a dairy farm work, and is particularly suited to dairying, for the pasture part of the rotation never takes the cows far from the buildings. It is only half a mile from the buildings to the railway station where the milk is shipped to Montreal. This little half mile jaunt gives the men a chance of a daily "visit" with other farmers at the station without the disadvantage of losing much time from the farm work—and in that little word "visit" is summed up a whole heap of advantages in favor of the small farm.

Besides the location that makes it handy to ship milk to Montreal, another advantage is enjoyed on this farm. It is this. Should the Montreal milk market ever prove sluggish, as it sometimes does in midsummer, there is a cheese factory situated but a few hundred yards from the Tinkess dairy where milk may be marketed to advantage. This is of particular advantage during the busy season in summer when time cannot well be spared for the trip to the station, and fortunately it is at this season that the Montreal milk market is best supplied from other sources. The Tinkess Stock Farm is level, all cleared and cultivated and is watered by two streams without being much cut up by them.

Another outstanding feature is the "small farm" air of tidiness. The house with its veranda wraps in woodshed, as well as the separate dairy are painted white, and the barns, silo, poultry house and machinery shed are painted a natural red. A visitor can walk around back of the



The Tinkess Home. This Snapshot, taken on a dull day early this Spring, does not do the Home Justice, but it bears Testimony to the Neatness Everywhere in Evidence.

barn and find the same air of tidiness prevailing as at the front for the manure is drawn to the field every day and all implements are carefully housed except when in use.

Mr. Tinkess Starts Farming.

When "Slim" Tinkess started out for himself he was not a wealthy man. He had just about enough money to take him to one of the lumber camps in Wisconsin, and there he worked for several years until he could get enough money to start in farming. His first venture was wheat growing in Minnesota where he lived for 16 years, but when in 1894 wheat sold for 44 cents a bushel Mr. Tinkess decided that the time had come to get out of grain growing. He had always wanted to have a little dairy farm of his own back in Old Ontario, so in 1895 he came east and brought the 75-acre farm on which he is living at present.

Mr. Tinkess knew nothing of dairy farming when he started. The farm when he bought it had very poor buildings and since taking it over he has had to erect carriage sheds, ice house, and other smaller

buildings, besides building over the barn and the house. The barn since being built over is a handy one, although a little out of the type ordinarily built. Its dimensions are 60 x 80 feet and the cows are arranged in a row along the east side. In putting in equipment for the cows Mr. Tinkess has always looked to utility and kept the cost as low as possible. While nothing is very fancy about the stables, the cows are all comfortably housed and everything is kept neat and clean. In the concrete platform on which the cows stand, the 16 inches nearest the manger slopes one and a half inches in that direction, so that the cows stand level. This also helps to keep the bedding from sliding back into the gutter. Water is kept constant before the cows in a continuous wooden trough lined with galvanized iron. While Mr. Tinkess would rather have the system of water bowls, he thinks that the money required can be spent to better advantage in some other improvements about his stable farm. Mr. Tinkess favors the use of partitions in the mangers as he believes in feeding each cow according to her production, but most dairymen discourage the use of them on account of the difficulty of cleaning out the mangers.

A stave silo 12 x 26 stands at the end of the feeding alley. Close by a door connects the feeding alley with the granary and storage barn, all of which are under the same roof. Mr. Tinkess considers corn ensilage the cheapest feed he grows on the farm and is planning to take down the silo he has at present and build a 14 x 30 concrete block silo in its place next summer.

The Farm Practice.

The continuous feeding of dairy products with not only the stuff produced on the farm, but also the concentrates bought in, has greatly increased the fertility of this farm since Mr. Tinkess first started. A four-year rotation is carried on of corn and roots, followed by oats and barley sown down and to two crops of hay and pasture. In case the hay looks particularly promising it may be kept for pasture and in the same way the rotation is elastic enough to allow an extra acreage of barley and oats to take the place of the hoed crop to some extent. Otherwise the proportion of corn would be far out of keeping with the number of cows kept. Usually five acres of corn is grown and two to three acres of roots. The best way out of the feed shortage according to Mr. Tinkess is the raising of a couple of acres of roots. "With plenty of roots cows will not require bran," says Mr. Tinkess.

All the corn is planted in hills by means of a check row planter and is cultivated both ways, to clean out and keep out couch grass with which this farm was originally infested. The manure all goes either on



Three Excellent Representatives of the Holstein Herd of S. U. Tinkess & Son, Stormont Co., Ont. When Mr. Tinkess started in dairying he had 10 ordinary grade cows. A few daughters from his cows and by a good pure-bred sire convinced him that there was merit in good blood. To-day his herd is all registered and several have qualified with honors in Record of Performance. It is cows such as these that make possible a good living for two families from a 75-acre farm.

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