

Elmaple: A Progressive Pr. Edward County Farm

The Improvements That Have Come With the Change From Grades to Pure Breds

By W. G. ORVIS.

MOST of us appreciate the value of improved methods of farming and are impressed with their significance when we meet a man who by their application is making money. It is easy, therefore, to realize my enjoyment of a short visit at the home of Mr. J. E. Huff, Prince Edward Co., Ont., and the profit derived by observing at first hand his methods and plans of farming.

Elmaple Stock Farm was purchased by Mr. J. E. Huff, the father of the present owner, about 45 years ago. In common with the prevailing system of farming at that time, the production of cereals for market purposes was the chief concern of Mr. Huff. After six years of farming the father built a store on part of the farm, and for 39 years has been carrying on a general merchant's trade there. For 36 years of this time

From Grades to Pure Breds

MOST of the men who are achieving the greatest success in the dairy field in Canada are men who have graduated into the pure bred live stock business through experience with grades. This confirms the accepted belief that experience is essential in the successful handling of pure bred cattle. This experience must be broad enough to take in all the details of breeding, feeding, care and management of the animals, and in most cases must include the providing of the feed, the housing of the stock, and the financing of the whole concern, all of which requires a man of no ordinary ability. We are planning to publish a series of articles in which will be told the stories of some of the farmers who, after successful experience with grade dairy cattle, have worked their way on to still greater success with pure bred. The first of the series appears herewith. Read it and watch for those which will follow. The record of work has been accomplished is full of inspiration for those who, though still on the lower rounds, are climbing the ladder of dairy success.

the neighboring farmers sought this place of business for their share of His Majesty's mails, and but for the advent of rural delivery Mr. Huff would probably still be a servant of the people and of the government in the capacity of post-master.

The operations on the farm for many years, as well as the store, were under the direction of Mr. Huff. Not until Mr. Morris Huff reached the age when he could assume control could the father release this hold. It was under the father's management that the first start was made in Holsteins. About 30 years ago Mr. H. Williams imported a small herd of pure bred Holstein cows into the county of Prince Edward, and Mr. Huff used this sire on two of his grade cows. The service fee paid was \$10. There are still three cows in the Elmaple herd that are direct descendants of this cross. The younger Mr. Huff remarked to me that he could not remember when there were not black and white cattle on the farm. These grade cows are of excellent type and cannot be distinguished in appearance from pure bred.

The First Pure Bred.

The satisfaction received from this herd of grades was so great that it was not until four years ago that pure bred were purchased. A two-year-old heifer in calf was bought, and she has had three heifer calves and her two oldest daughters have each had a heifer calf. This makes the nucleus of a first-class pure-bred herd.

Another cow has since been purchased, and with her progeny the two families make up a herd of 10 females. When speaking of the pure bred as compared with grades, Mr. Huff said:

"Our young heifers have milked up to 60 lbs. a day, a feat we never achieved with grades, and this year we have averaged, with one cow less, 1,100 lbs. more milk a month at the factory than last year. Our two-year-old heifers this year gave more milk than our best cows before we got pure bred."

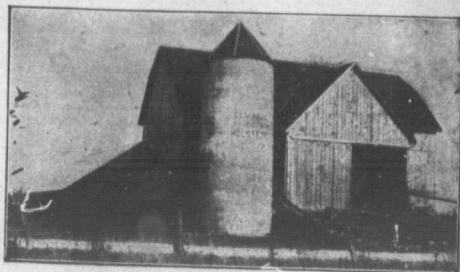
Realizing that success with any kind of cattle depends largely upon the way they are handled and fed, Mr. Huff has so arranged his farm that a large amount of feed of the kind most valuable to his cows is available. A rough inventory of feeds on hand amply demonstrates the way in which the Elmaple herd is provided for. Three hundred bushels of grain carried over from last year; 30 loads of alfalfa hay in first-class condition in the barn; 600 bushels of this year's grain; one ton of oil cake bought before it became so high in price as at present; two tons of Schumaker (a patented food), bought early in the season; a large quantity of good hay; all the straw grown on the farm, and a silo 12 x 35 feet full of three-quarters full of good ensilage. The farm upon which the bulk of these feeds was grown is 100 acres in size, and the soil is limestone clay with an admixture of gravel. It is strong land and produces well, in this respect being typical of much of the soil of the county. The rotation followed is the standard four-year one, 20 acres of the land being kept out for alfalfa and the other 80 acres cropped in the ordinary way.

The Sidelines.

For many years canning factory products were grown to good advantage, and for several years beans have added considerably to the farm revenues. From three acres in 1915, 65 bushels were threshed and sold for \$3.25 a bushel. This year six acres were planted and were being threshed on the day of my visit. The yield compared with last year was poor, but the price was much better as buyers were paying nearly \$5 a bushel for them. In 1915 Mr. Huff won first prize in competition with 20 entries in oats in the Standing Field Crop Competition, again showing

that the farming methods are thorough and productive.

Six acres of orchard trees were set out four years ago. These have made excellent growth, and are carefully tended. One feature of this orchard worthy of note was its low heading. Almost all the trees were of the most approved type of low heading, yet in no way hindering the working of the land. In a few years more the fruit from this orchard will be another line of revenue added to that already derived from Elmaple farm.



The barns on Elmaple Farm, the home of J. E. Huff, Pr. Edward Co., Ont. Mr. Huff believes in advertising. Note the farm name on the sign.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

Hog raising has not been very closely followed, but at the time of my visit two young sows had a combined litter of 23 healthy youngsters a few weeks old. If the price of pork keeps anywhere near what it has been for some time, these porkers will bring in considerable cash six months hence. Having this bunch of pigs coming on to make profitable use of the by-products of the home dairy for the next five months, why and a result of forethought, to which other breeders of my acquaintance would find it to their advantage to take heed.

A Record of Increasing Yields.

Among the many interesting things seen on this farm, none reflected more its systematic and businesslike management than the records kept of the herd. A synopsis of this record was published in October 12 issue of Farm and Dairy. We here repeat it in part because of its significance.

Seven years ago, when the first records were kept, the average production for each cow was 6,000 lbs. milk. The cow thought to be the best in the herd before the scales were used, gave the first year of test 5,400 lbs. of milk. The average production for each year since 1909 is given herewith. The figures are worthy of careful study as they tell a tale of how, by weeding and selecting, not pursued without discouragement, yields may be improved:

(Continue on page 8.)



Some of the Matrons in the Holstein Herd on Elmaple Stock Farm. Their owner is graduating into the breeding of pure bred Holsteins. The herd contains both pure bred and grades, but they are so alike in type and conformation as to be scarcely distinguishable.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.