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The Main Money Makers on a Farm That a College Professor is Managing in a Practical Way for Practical Results

Of a Professor Who Farms Successfully

And Something of What We Saw in the Course of an Unexpected Call

It is quite a jump from being Professor of English at the Ontario Agricultural College during the winter months to the work-a-day life of the practical farmer during the warmer season. But Prof. J. B. Reynolds has proven himself a good jumper. It seemed to come easy to him to discard the comparatively easy (in a natural sense) life of the lecturer for the more strenuous existence of the farmer. He has been doing it now for a couple of years—this may be his third year by-the-way—and likes it better all the time.

"Another of those take-it-easy farmers, who sit on the porch, hires all the work done, and then calls himself a practical farmer," scornfully remarks the critic when he hears of Prof. Reynolds. "Lots of money and nothing to spend it on, so he buys a farm," says another. Both are mistaken. Prof. Reynolds is not a porch farmer. He has not a lot of money. He is farming according to a standard that is eminently practical. Like most of us who till the soil, Prof. Reynolds has to use his capital carefully to cover his needs. To use his own words: "I am doing things as an ordinary farmer could do them. I have no more money than an ordinary farmer. I am working as a money-making farmer."

There is nothing in the appearance of the farm of this college man to distinguish it from that of his neighbors unless it be that the crops look more thrifty, and there are more inexpensive improvements in evidence. The soil is a light loam, rather strong in spots; not the kind of a soil that produces record breaking crops. There are 63 acres of it in the farm. The farm buildings may be seen from the College Heights. The land lies contiguous to the College farm.

I had heard of Prof. Reynolds as a farmer. I had an invitation from him to visit his farm. So early last July, I, who had studied English at his feet, went out to visit the Professor on his farm and compare his discrimination in things agricultural with his well known discrimination in things relative to the use of the mother tongue, particularly as it is expressed on examination papers. I caught the Professor as he was leaving for town to get some necessary materials for a new cottage he is building. Finally, however, his son went to town, and we strolled out to inspect the herd; for Prof. Reynolds is, first of all, a dairy farmer.

THE DAIRY HERD.

Here we found the first evidence of the practical way in which our college man is doing things. He did not start out and buy long pedigreed animals at a longer price. And mind you, I am not saying anything against well-bred, pure-bred dairy cattle. Prof. Reynolds intends

to have them eventually, but just as present he hasn't got the price. He had to content himself with good, milky-looking grades. He bought the most of them at auction sales and paid ordinary auction sale prices. His best cow for instance was bid in for \$72, and the others in proportion. That Prof. Reynolds exercised fine discrimination in his selection is proven by the average



"Brindle," the Best of the Herd

This is Prof. Reynolds' best cow. She does not show to best advantage here because well advanced in lactation. Her record for a year is 10,897 lbs. of 4.2 per cent. milk; a record that will give her an acceptable recommendation to dairy farmers as a long pedigree

production of his herd—over 9,000 lbs. of milk last year. The discrimination in selection that made this high average possible, however, was not all done at auction sales. There have been 18 cows in the herd since it was established. Now there are only 14 as many. The rest didn't measure up to the proprietor's standard when submitted to the test of a year's actual work with every milking tabulated. They fell below the minimum standard of 8,000 lbs. of milk in the year, and had to go; the most of them to the butcher. Here is a table that will show what the nine cows milked last year actually did in pounds of milk and in dollars and cents:

Name	Value of calf	Maintenance	Net profit
Brindle	10,897	\$4.00	\$66.82
Cora	10,644	7.00	61.48
Daisy	10,334	8.00	62.06
Kate	9,626	137.80	56.54
Flora	9,560	138.34	55.84
Flora	8,907	125.95	55.66
Spot	8,792	133.43	60.28
Star	8,308	125.67	59.14
Olive	7,340	97.76	58.06

"Pick out the best cow in the bunch," challenged Prof. Reynolds as we stood in the pasture with the herd. My choice did not fall on Brindle though I picked her for one of the good ones. Brindle would not appeal to one who has been accustomed to look for dairy merit in the specialized dairy breeds. One of Brindle's ancestors probably hailed from the Channel Islands but the original Jersey blood had gotten badly mixed with Shorthorn before Brindle became a propagator of the race. Brindle, however, has all the ear marks of a good dairy cow—lots of constitution, length with capacity and a well shaped udder of silky quality. Her Shorthorn ancestors must have been of a milking strain for Brindle shows no disposition to put flesh on her back. Or perhaps she derived her milking propensities from that ancestor whose original home was on the Isle of Jersey. Be that as it may, Brindle's record is 10,897 lbs. of milk testing well over four per cent. of butter fat.

A FLATTERING COMPARISON.

Brindle has some characteristics in common with May Rima, the champion butter producer of the world. Like May Rima, Brindle made her record by steady consistent work. There are cows in the herd that have greater monthly records than Brindle. Olive, for instance, the cow at the bottom of the list, a big, coarse-boned Holstein grade, holds the monthly record and has gone as high as 425 lbs. in a week. But she doesn't keep it up, and will hold her place in the Reynolds herd only until a better one is found to take her place. Some of the promising daughters from her more persistent companions will probably out her. But to get back to Brindle. She has another characteristic in common with May Rima. It cost \$66.82 to feed her for the year, a high figure. Like May Rima she paid for it, and more. Her milk sold for \$157.12, her calf for \$4, leaving a profit above feeding costs of \$94.30. It cost only \$58.06 to feed Olive. But she left a profit of only \$46.70 over feed. In one respect Brindle did better than May Rima. The latter did not carry a calf, and took the whole 12 months to make her record. Brindle made her record in 10 months, calved within the year, and thus fulfilled all of the duties required of a good commercial cow.

THE FEEDING OF THE HERD.

But enough of individual comment. Prof. Reynolds knows every one of his cows, what they can do for him, and what he should do for them. We opened the gate and started the cows for home by way of the road, while the Professor and I took the short road across the fields. The pasture was bare of grass, of little value to the herd except as an exercising ground. But just

(Concluded on page 13)