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NOTES ON THE FARM PRACTICE OF A PRIZE WINNING FARMER

A Beautiful Home the First Consideration. Dairy Cattle Replacing Calf. Hogs are Among the Money-Makers. A Splendid System of Farm Accounting Enables the Owner, Mr. Chris Howson, Peterboro Co., Ont., to Direct His Farm Work to the Best Advantage.

THERE are many points worthy of emulation in the farming practice of Mr. Christopher Howson, of Peterboro Co., Ont., whose farm secured third prize in District No. 3 of the Interprovincial Prize Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy. The value of tile drains is appreciated; the orchard is one of the best on the competing farms of the district; a start has been made with alfalfa and an excellent system of farm accounting is kept. But the point for which Mr. Howson deserves particular credit and the feature of his farming that would attract first attention from a visitor or passerby is the care that he has lavished in making beautiful the surroundings of his farm home.

Mr. Howson has taken advantage of the opportunities that the country offers for beautifying his surroundings. The first impression that one received on approaching his farm is pleasing. A splendid row of maples extends along the whole front of his farm. Around the house itself, ornamental trees and shrubs are nicely arranged and attended to with the care we would expect a financial king to expend on his country place. Even in the back yard, so often neglected in country homes, the ground has been levelled, the grass clipped short with the lawn mower, and neat hedges surround it. Mr. Howson believes that the object of all farm practice is to establish a home that is worth while living in; and he puts his belief into practice.

SOIL EXTRA GOOD

Mr. Howson's farm contains 100 acres of very rich clay loam, situated on a good road 10 miles from the city of Peterboro and three miles from the village of Keene, which is their shipping point. Most of his farm is quite level and laid out in large easily worked fields. Part of the farm is on an elevation, and on this is the orchard. The low parts of his farm have been tile drained, and more tiles are being added each year. The buildings are very conveniently situated near the centre of the farm and crops can be drawn in with a minimum of labor.

Beef cattle had always been a specialty on this farm but recently dairy cattle are in favor. "We are going into Holsteins," said Mr. Howson's son, Herbert. "We have been breeding Durhams but there is more money in dairy cattle than in beef." Mr. Howson's dairy herd consisting of 10 cows are of the big, deep-bodied, heavy milking kind. Most of them are Shorthorn grades. One cow gave 32 lbs. of 5.2 per cent. milk in a day when fresh, but Mr. Howson is working for higher production. Records are kept of the individual production of each cow and a lot have been sold off and better ones gotten. In order to get first class milkers, however, it has been found that they will have to breed their own heifers to replenish the herd and a pure bred Holstein sire from good producing stock now heads the herd. Swine occupy a prominent place among Mr.

Howson's income makers. At the time that the farms were inspected in July, there were 62 pigs on hand. Mr. Howson purchases a large part of it hauled from the factory in a tank wagon which is hauled near the pig yard. The whey is then run directly from the tank into the troughs. The pigs are thus fed with a minimum of labor and, as the whey can be purchased for a small amount considering its feeding value, pig feeding is found profitable. In the winter the breeding stock is kept in a pen near the buildings. In order to make the sows take exercise, their sleeping quarters are in one building and their feeding



A Beautiful Home Here Receives First Consideration

Mr. Chris Howson, whose prize winning farm is described in the article adjoining, has as attractive a home as one could wish. Ornamental shrubs, flower beds and trees over all, give the grey stone house a setting that is very pleasing to the eye. Read more about Mr. Howson's farm and home on this page.

quarters in another located at some distance from the house.

The horses kept are of good heavy stock; none of them are pure bred. Nine horses, two of them brood mares, do the farm work and in addition, at the time of our visit, were four colts.

CONVENIENCES IN THE STABLES

The main barn is 100 by 30 feet with an "L" 28 by 45 feet; there is a basement under the whole. At one end of the basement of the main barn is the cow stable, 30 by 50 feet. A litter carrier runs through the horse stable and cow stable, and then out into the yard where the manure is either piled neatly or dumped directly in the wagon. This makes the cleaning out of the stables a comparatively easy operation. Ventilation shafts run from the stables to the cupola on the roof. The pig pen and hen house are also in the basement of the barn but so well separated from the stable that no bad odors reach the cows. Grain chutes and hay chutes are so arranged that feeding can be done with a minimum of labor.

The implements of which there was a good supply, were carefully housed in a drive shed 24 by 50 feet. A feature of the buildings that must be mentioned, is the well equipped work shop where all repairing of machinery, harness, etc., is done.

The soil on Mr. Howson's farm is naturally very rich and his crops are good. The grain crops of barley and oats were particularly good, and the 11 acres of fall wheat was one of the best fields seen by the judges. Owing to the large area devoted by Mr. Howson to grain and the limited area in hoe crops, a few weeds such as perennial sow thistle have gained a foothold. The rotation of clover, one year, pasture one year, and grain two or three years, does not admit of dealing with weeds to the best advantage. The hoe crop consisted of one and one-half acres of mangels and one acre of potatoes. Ten acres of alfalfa had been seeded with a nurse crop of barley and a fair catch had been secured.

Mr. Howson's orchard consists of four acres of such standard varieties as Rhode Island Greening, Spy, Baldwin and Russet. The returns in some years run over \$100 an acre. The land is plowed each spring and manured every three years. No crops are taken off the orchard except apples.

ACCURATE ACCOUNTS

If any department of this farm were not paying Mr. Howson would soon find it out. The strict accuracy of Mr. Howson's accounts may be illustrated by reference to his poultry records. He was able to tell the judges just how much grain, and of what kind, the hens had eaten in a year, the market value of the grain, the number of dozen of eggs sold and their value, and the number used in the house and their value. Similar accounts are kept in the dairy herd, the swine and the orchard. The various grain crops, too, are kept tab on, and cost of production and profits determined. Such full accounts as these are not kept with each department of the farm every year, but at intervals, and the information obtained is applied to the crops produced in the intervening years. Mr. Howson does not find the keeping of accounts troublesome. The satisfaction of knowing just what he is doing and the knowledge that he is following the lines of greatest profit, outweighs the work involved in keeping his account book in order.

The attention to detail that Mr. Howson applies to his accounts is applied to every department of his farm. Not the minutest detail that will add to profit or the attractiveness of the homestead, is neglected. "Success is the result of attention to details," say the wise ones. If so, Mr. Howson's success as a farmer can be easily explained.—F. E. E.

Testing now is as easy as the proverbial rolling off a log, and every owner of a milking herd should test in some form. If some farmer-dairyman were to see me making purchases and in every case handing my purse to the seller for him to help himself and return what he chose, they would think me a fit candidate for the insane hospital; yet those same men will feed out good money to their cows and allow a part of those to so short-change them on the milk yield that the profit on the whole herd is nil.—Malcolm H. Gardner, Delevan, Wis.