

ity (a pure Scotch-bred one), Eliza 17th (tracing to Field Marshal), Meadow Queen 7th, Sincerity and Ruby (a Royal winner) are some of the leading heifers. A great many of the cows are now in calf to Royal Duke.

HEREFORDS AND DEVONS AT THE FLEMISH FARM.

The Hereford herd totals about sixty head, and the Devons thirty in all. They have been for the past twenty years under the charge of Jas. McMillan, who was previously with the well-known Angus breeder, Sir William Gordon Cumming. Both herds originated about 1854, the Whitefaces being of blood from Lord Berwick and Turner of The Leen, while the Devons are Quarterly stock. The first Hereford bull used was Conqueror, afterwards sold to go to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. He was followed by Horace, Hardwick, Pioneer (hired from Mr. Thos. Price for three seasons), Ladas and Lancelot. The present stock bulls are Earlsfield and Arbitrator. The first, a deep animal, of good substance and heavy front, was bred by Mr. Lawton Moore; while Arbitrator, bred by Mr. John Price, though not fleshy, is straight in his lines and good in the thighs.

The females are all of a good type, good mothers, in nice breeding condition. Among the cows we specially noticed Ringdove 2nd (bred by Mr. R. Oliver, Cornwall), Firefly, who was nursing a promising bull calf, and Sedate.

DEVONS.

There were some very fine matrons among the Devons out at pasture, and the younger stock was also good. The principal sire in the herd is Quantock Bridegroom; a bull of fine Devon type. He is assisted by Benedictine, a straight, thrifty two-year-old. The long list of prize cards around the stable spoke volumes for the success of the Devons and Whitefaces at different shows. We saw a beautiful two-year-old Devon steer, and a younger one, also very good, in preparation for the fat-stock shows this month (December), also some yearlings, and a promising Hereford one-year-old steer. For the same shows, there were at the Shaw Farm two wonderful Shorthorn steers, one two years old and the other a yearling, that will take something good to beat them. They were being carefully fitted, and their even flesh and well-covered frames were worth going a long distance to see. The two-year-old steer was a first-prize winner at Smithfield and Birmingham last year.

The soil of the Flemish and Shaw Farms is of heavy clay, which is not favorable to the raising of cattle, and therefore the successful breeding and feeding of the Royal herds is most creditable. Wheat, beans and oats do well, but roots are not a success as a rule, and this year they were a failure, though sown three times. Wheat yields forty to forty-eight bushels per acre, and beans about forty-eight bushels. The beans are mixed with oats and fed with oat straw and hay cut fine. The farms lie nicely, and there are plenty of shade trees in every field.

THE DAIRY FARM.

The dairy stock consists of Shorthorns, Jerseys, and Red Polls. These latter milk well, but are of rather a nervous temperament. Some of the Shorthorns give over twenty quarts a day after calving, their average being fourteen to fifteen quarts. Some of them had capital udders. There are about thirty Jerseys, all nice milkers. The stable is a comfortable one, lighted by gas at night, and there is a raised walk between the two rows of cows, which face one another. There are nice yards for the young stock. The floor is of asphalt, with stone gutters and gratings for carrying off the liquid manure. Bulls are kept for each breed used in the dairy.

The dairy itself is built on the ground floor, with tile flooring, and corks of Minton ware for the milk, of a handy shape for emptying. Water runs into the building through fountains, and there are taps on the floor for cooling purposes. The stands for milk are marble. The building was erected in the twenty-first year of the late Queen, under the direction of the late Prince Consort. The dairy operations are conducted by the Misses Stoddart, who have made a great success of it, in spite of the fact that they have to conduct their operations in the old-fashioned way. In 1899, to show what could be done, in spite of this supposed drawback, entries of butter were made at the Royal Show at Windsor, and in the face of a very strong competition the Royal dairies won first for fresh and second for slightly salted butter, thus showing that care and cleanliness can, to a large extent, overcome the advantages those have who are possessed of up-to-date dairy implements and machinery.

HORSES.

Mr. Tait is one of the large number of breeders who would fain have seen Clydesdales and Shires amalgamated in order to combine size and quality. True to this belief, he keeps a capital Clyde stallion, Bentinck, who won first at the Royal at Maidstone two years ago (the only time he has been shown), and crosses him on Shire

mares. Judging by the progeny, Mr. Tait's theory is justified by practice, for they show the quality and smoothness of the sire and the size and substance of the dams.

The breeding of sheep is not followed, on account of the heavy character of the soil, but several hundred half-bred Leicester and Cheviot ewes are bought every fall and bred to Shropshire rams. The ewes and lambs are then sold the following summer. A number of good pure-bred Berkshires are kept.

The Royal Farms first commenced showing in 1843, when a prize was won at Smithfield for a pen of Suffolk and Bedfordshire pigs. Between 1890 and 1899, £5,221 13s. was taken in cups, medals and money, all with home-bred animals. Prizes won in 1900 and this year are too fresh in our readers' memories to need repetition.



"HAMILTON PLACE."
Home of Paul Wickson, Canadian Artist.

Home Life on the Farm.

By JESSIE McEWEN, TULLICHEMEN, N. BRANDON.

The writer can speak from experience of home life on the farm only as she has lived it on a Manitoba prairie farm. Before that she was engaged in the duties and activities of a very busy city life in the east.

Home-making in any land depends largely on the character and training of the mother, and our West has reason to rejoice that so many of its women are educated and refined, as well as brave and self-reliant. Pioneer life on our prairie farms has borne most heavily on woman, deprived as she was, in those early years, of her former comforts and conveniences, exposed to many hardships and often hungry at



MRS. JESSIE McEWEN.

heart for a sight of loved ones left far behind. In addition to all this was the heavy burden, which is still felt, of doing all the household work without any or, at best, with very unskilled domestic help.

In spite of these drawbacks, however, courage and perseverance have had their reward, and many bright and happy homes are now to be found in our dear prairie-land.

A world of privilege and of opportunity opens out to one in the life on a prairie-farm. But here, as elsewhere, the prize is to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Too many look upon the world merely as a place in which to eat and drink, to buy, sell and get gain. They are

blind to the wealth and beauty around them in the ever-changing clouds or in the marvellous tints of sunset and sunrise. They take no delight in the constant succession of flowers that carpet the prairie from early spring till the frosts of winter set in.

To the cultivated eye and heart there is no monotony upon the prairie. On the contrary, one never wearies of watching the variety of its appearances and adornments.

What a pleasure it is to shut one's eyes on a summer evening, out of doors, and drink in with one's ears the many sounds to be heard on the prairie: the calls and songs of birds, the hum of busy insects, the music of the wind amongst the trees, and, what is still more charming, its thrilling refrain as it sweeps through the billowing grain.

Life on the farm may be made beautiful to mind and soul by keeping near to nature and looking up through it to nature's God. Failing to do this, the life grows sordid and selfish and the soul is dragged down, and droops, a weary captive.

Through the use of right books the life may be brought into touch with the whole world, and thus broadened in sympathy and enriched in knowledge. The scarcity of books in most of our prairie homes is very noticeable, and there is surely something amiss when such is the case. Better to do with less costly food and clothing for the body than to starve the mind and soul. Our Master taught wisely when He said, "The life is more than meat and the body than raiment."

It is pitiful to meet a body good to look upon, and well cared for, which encloses an empty mind and a starved soul! There need be nothing in the routine of farm life to hinder our home-makers from being not only skilled in all house-keeping arts, but also to share intelligently in subjects of interest to the outside world, and knowing something of the literature of the day. Such a life will brighten those at home and reach out in its sympathy and helpfulness to others even far away.

It is customary with some shallow minds to sneer at farmers and farm life. Such persons surely forget that much of the prosperity and progress of our country depends upon the diligence and intelligence of the agriculturists. They do not realize that in this, as in all other professions, it takes science and skill to become proficient. When the world wants men, sound in mind and body, to fill her positions of trust, the statistics of all civilized countries show how very often she has to call them from the farm!

One thing that Canada wants to-day is, that more of her sons of ability turn their attention to farming and cease to strive and to struggle upon the pittance offered in city offices. All such young men may have free scope and exercise on the farm for every grace and refinement they may possess, and they need be no less courteous gentlemen than in the proudest city home.

A home on a farm will do for others what it has done for me and for mine, provided they bring to it a love for work for its own sake and the power to see and to heed the deep things of life. It will make them self-reliant and courageous and hopeful. At any rate, others may laud the city and its advantages, but I have learned to love my prairie home and to combine in it much of the best that the city could offer me with what is sweet and good in country life.

Christmas Numbers and Bound Volumes.

With best wishes for the incoming year to its readers everywhere goes the Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate" for 1901. That its stores of entertainment and instruction and wealth of illustration will be appreciated we know from past experience. From sea to sea, it has been a pleasure to serve our constituency, and the same is to be said regarding all countries where the paper goes—Europe, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and India—all send us words of encouragement. While to non-subscribers the price of the present number is 50 cents, in anticipation of the large demand for extra copies for sending to friends, we will undertake to furnish them while the supply lasts to our present subscribers at 25 cents each. The number is sent to all regular subscribers without extra charge, and a copy is also sent to new subscribers whose subscriptions are received during the balance of December and January. Having gone carefully over the holiday numbers of the other leading periodicals, it may fairly be said that the Christmas "Advocate" is yet to be surpassed in the variety and excellence of its contents. Besides the call for extra copies of the Christmas issue, we will, as heretofore, be asked for quotations on bound volumes containing all the copies for the year 1901, and the price will be \$2 per copy, handsomely bound. For the money, a richer treasury of up-to-date agricultural knowledge cannot be secured. Persons desiring volumes should order same at once, as the number which we bind is limited to about the actual requirement.