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# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

The Recognized Expert 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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FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 17, 1915

No. 24

## Successful Dairy Farming on Muck Land Farmers who are Making Good where Others Failed.

IF the traveller from Tilsonburg, in Oxford County, to Courtland, in the adjoining county of Norfolk, were to take the first turn to his left when he reaches the latter village, a minute's walk will bring him to the edge of a stretch of mucky, sandy soil, many hundreds of acres in extent. Two decades ago that land was regarded as useless. Men had tried to farm it and had failed. To-day, the traveller will find 322 acres of it laid out into fertile, productive and profitable dairy farms, the homes of Abner Twiss and John F. Robinson. Both farms are a part of the estate of the late Dr. McKay; and here hangs the tale.

Dr. McKay was a practicing physician and through his country practice had won a comfortable fortune. He had an ambition to own a country estate and the cheap muck soils around Courtland seemed to offer him an opportunity to acquire a large acreage without too great an initial outlay. Accordingly, 1,400 acres of muck became his. His experiences as a farmer are still the talk of the countryside. Dr. McKay knew little about farming and less about business management. Careless methods were responsible for his misfortunes. An immense barn was built, only to fall down. The crops, usually sown on poorly prepared land, were a failure. If by some chance a crop did grow well, its value was apt to be lost through delayed or improper harvesting. The

F. E. ELLIS, B.S.A., EDITOR, FARM AND DAIRY estate became involved to such an extent that the doctor was forced to let go.

If Dr. McKay failed in his purpose, he did succeed in demonstrating to a nicety the falsity of the old belief that "anybody can be a farmer." It requires special training, as well as brains, to

McKay estate and made their bids for fortune. The Farm of Abner Twiss

The Twiss farm is the first reached as we leave Courtland. It consists of 212 acres, with about 125 acres under the plow. The farm today supports a herd of 26 milch cows, besides young stock. When Mr. Abner Twiss purchased his farm 15 years ago the sole buildings were an old house and barn and fields that were almost unproductive. Both house and barn have since been remodelled, other buildings have been added as required, and the productivity of the farm increased several fold. After looking over the farm and talking with Mr. Twiss, I came to the conclusion that his success on muck land was due to following closely the same principles that make for success in dairying on any kind of soil—he keeps nothing but good dairy cows and he follows a systematic crop rotation over all the workable land of the farm.



"Mr. Twiss Now Has a Herd of Cows That Averages \$100 a Year at the Condensary."

make a good farmer, as Dr. McKay discovered to his sorrow. He, however, blamed his failure on the land, and the people of the neighborhood were agreed that the soil "wasn't up to much." When the estate was offered for sale, therefore, in whole or in part, and on almost any terms that a purchaser might ask, buyers were slow to appear. Dr. McKay had proved to the satisfaction of most people that muck was no good to farm on, particularly sandy muck. With the failures of their predecessors before them, Messrs. Twiss and Robinson finally took up sections of the

"We are strong for corn," said Mr. Twiss to me. "It helps us out wonderfully in feeding our herd. The soil here is not extra well suited for grain. Some years we have good hay crops, but not always. We do have good pasture land, however, and we can always grow good corn. Leaming and White Cap Yellow Dent are the varieties grown, but I believe I prefer the Leaming, as it gives us more silage. Following the corn we have grain seeded to clover and grasses, and cut



These Buildings Were Built from the Profits of Dairy Farming on Muck Land. The Property of Jno. F. Robinson, Norfolk Co., Ont.