

Issued
Each Week

FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

Only \$1.00
a Year

Vol. XXXI.

FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 1, 1912.

No. 31

THE JUDGES TELL OF WHAT THEY SAW ON THE PRIZE FARMS

Mr. E. Terrill, Wooler, Ont., and Prof. H. Barton, Macdonald College, Que., who placed the Awards in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Competition, comment, favorably and otherwise, on conditions as they found them on the Competing Farms

THE point that has impressed me most in connection with this competition," said Mr. E. Terrill in an editor of Farm and Dairy, "is the air of comfort and contentment that was evident in every home visited. All of the families seemed to take particular interest and pleasure out of their life at the farm. I can remember 25 years ago when many farmers considered their position inferior to that of city people. This feeling has now vanished. Farmers have come to see that they are the people. Nowhere could this be more evident than in the homes on the farms competing in Farm and Dairy's Prize Farms Competition. In these homes was an air of culture, there was found literature that broadens, educates and uplifts.

"Another very noticeable feature," continued Mr. Terrill, "is that the farms that reached the final competition of this year were almost invariably owned by pure bred stock enthusiasts. One would travel a long piece to find better Ayrshires than those of R. B. Ness, and the pure bred Holstein herds of J. W. Richardson and W. A. Paterson were a credit to their owners.

OF THE CATTLE ATTENDED TO "A point that gave me particular pleasure was to note the attention given to the comfort of the dairy herds, both in the stable and on pasture. In not a single stable did we see the rigid stanchion. Water in the front of the cattle was the general rule, and while in a few barns the ventilation was a weak point, most of the stables had a good ventilating system. J. W. Richardson's stable was particularly well provided for in this regard. The shady nooks in the pastures of Messrs. Richardson, Gunn and Northcott also met with our appreciation."

"What would you consider the one thing most needed on the competing farms?" asked our editor.

"More labor," answered Mr. Terrill without hesitation. "Many of the farms would have been much better conditioned for the competition had labor been more readily available. The lack of it was noticeable on every farm except that of Mr. Ness. It was noticeable that those farmers who gave work the year round and provided permanent houses for their men, had the least trouble in securing efficient hired help.

"Another point on which all the farms were weak was the orchard. We did not see what I would consider a first-class farm orchard on the whole trip. Messrs. Richardson, Paterson, Howson and Northcott had fair orchards, but even

here there was lots of room for improvement. I know from my own experience that a good orchard is a very profitable investment, and the lack of it is a serious deficiency in an all round farm.

"And still another weak point was in the care of manure. Most of the competitors hauled their manure directly to the fields during the winter months. This is well and good. At other times, however, the manure is poorly cared for. Mr. Richardson was the best in this respect, he having a good manure shed.

THE COMPETITION AN INFLUENCE FOR GOOD "I believe that this competition has had a big influence in stirring up the competing farmers to put their farms in the best of shape and to give more attention to many details that would otherwise be neglected. One of the biggest im-



The Judges at Work—On a Competing Farm in Quebec

Messrs. Terrill and Barton may be here seen inspecting the pure bred Ayrshire herd of J. W. Logan, a Quebec competitor in the Interprovincial Farms Competition conducted by Farm and Dairy. Mr. Logan scores high in the quality and breeding of his cattle. Mr. Logan attributes many of the improvements on his farm to the stimulating influence of the Prize Farms Competitions in which he has entered.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

provements that I noticed was on the farm of Mr. Howson, at Keene. In the competition last year Mr. Howson, I am told, had practically no hoed crop. This year he had about fourteen acres in corn and roots. As Mr. Howson has several bad weeds to contend with this one improvement in his system of management would more than compensate him for entering the competition."

Mr. Terrill was enthusiastic in telling of the whole-hearted assistance that was being given the farmers in the competition by their wives. "One could not judge a bunch of farms such as we have just seen," said Mr. Terrill, "without being greatly impressed by the evidences of the substantial assistance that had been rendered the competing farmers by their life partners. Were it not for the sympathetic interest of the woman in the house I very much doubt if any man would try to build for himself a farm such as those that we have seen."

As this was the first trip that Mr. Terrill had taken into the agricultural districts of Quebec province, our editor took advantage of the oppor-

tunity to discover Mr. Terrill's impressions of the agriculture of the province. "Disappointed in the right way," was Mr. Terrill's comment. "That beautiful section of country extending from Montreal and down through Huntingdon, known as the Beauharnois district, is one of the finest farming sections that I have ever seen. The rich level land and fine farms were a revelation to me. A visit to this district could not but delight anyone who is interested in farming.

"Another feature of Quebec that pleased me was the fine gardens found in connection with every home," concluded Mr. Terrill. "I must admit that my province of Ontario takes second place to this portion of Quebec, when it comes to the kitchen garden. Messrs. Youniss, Logan and Oswald deserve particular credit for their fine gardens. In the latter case at least, I understand that the woman in the home is largely responsible for the quality of the garden."

PROF. BARTON'S IMPRESSIONS

"I must first bear testimony to the beneficial influence that is exerted by such competitions as that conducted by Farm and Dairy," said Prof. Barton, when asked for his impressions of the trip. "There was evidence everywhere of improvement made under the stimulus of the competition. A competition has a driving effect and it drives in the right direction. The farm of Mr. J. W. Logan is a fine example. Mr. Logan has been entering farms competitions for years. He has steadily improved his farm and his methods of management. And he attributes his progressive moves largely to the influence of farms competitions.

I believe that farms competitions have a good community influence as well. All of the competitors' neighbors will be watching the competition and noting results.

"There were evidences everywhere of scarcity of labor," continued Prof. Barton. "Many of the competitors lacked the help that was necessary to fix up their farms in a way that would make them eligible for first place. Of course in a good many cases small things that did not require much labor were not done, because the competitors did not appreciate their importance. Mr. Ness here had an advantage, I presume, over the other competitors in that having acted as a judge in a former competition conducted by Farm and Dairy, he knew what we would be looking for and had everything around his farm fixed up to suit. It was the extra points he gained through his attention to small details that enabled Mr. Ness to win an easy first place in spite of the fact that he had neither orchard nor hogs."

"What was your impression as to the general character of the stock on the farms?" was asked.

WHERE THE STOCK WAS WEAK

"On the whole the stock was excellent," replied Prof. Barton. "I would, however, call at-