

FARM AND DAIRY

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SOME DETAILS CONCERNING A YOUNG MAN AND HIS FARM PRACTICE

How He is Making a Success of His Farm, the Crops Grown and His General Farm Management. Some Comment on the Conveniences and Comforts of His Home

Many country young folk have ambitions other than to farm. Farming communities, almost without exception, feel the effects of this ill-advised ambition. Visit at the farm home and the farmer's sons too often are represented only by their photographs, they having gone elsewhere, most likely to the city, to carve out their career. Farms are being sold at a sacrifice; their owners, with sons flown cityward, dependent upon hirelings, have wearied of these unnatural conditions and have resolved to enter retired life. It is refreshing to note, however, that we still have a goodly number of bright young men who recognize in the farm a work, ennobling, free, with scope for all their talents and offering a fair remuneration, if not a competence. Such a man is Mr. S. A. Northcott, who farms a few miles north from the town of Oshawa, Ont.

It has been the privilege of the writer from time to time to visit farms in many communities, widely separated and in various provinces. Rarely has been seen better use made of talents, as applied to farming, than in the case of Mr. Northcott. Mr. Northcott is in his early thirties, married, and with a family. Eight years ago he entered the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, taking the two years' course, shortly after which he married and commenced work on the farm he now owns and tills.

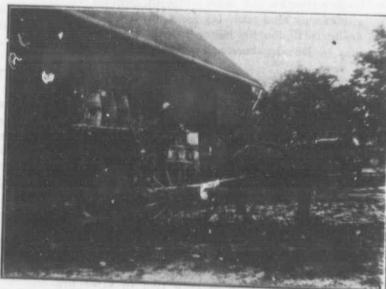
LARGE FIELDS AN ADVANTAGE

The progressiveness of Mr. Northcott's farm management shows itself even to the casual observer on approaching his farm. The farm consists of 140 acres, 10 of which is bush. It is arranged in large fields of from 20 to 27 acres. Speaking of the size of his fields, Mr. Northcott said, "I am going to tear out still more of the fencing, and in time will have practically only the outside fences. Nothing less than a 20-acre field can be handled to advantage, except it be a pasture field, and for this purpose temporary wire fence proves most efficient; this can be erected readily and at little cost. It is in the large fields that one can make the time. Crops can there be seeded in a hurry. Last spring in seeding, I drove four horses myself. A boy drove two. Through this arrangement I did not require a man. The four-horse team might not work so well did not one drive them himself, as there are few men that can be had who are capable of being trusted with a valuable four-horse team. One needs some sense of responsibility if he would drive such a team properly. Implements and lots of horses effectually solve the la-

bor problem as far as cultivation is concerned." Implements are never allowed to remain exposed to the weather on Mr. Northcott's farm. In fact they are not allowed to stay out over night, as Mr. Northcott says he has too much money locked up in implements not to give them proper care. Wide gates have been placed at the entrance to each field, and implements, including the binder, are driven to the barn each night. "With the binder," said Mr. Northcott, "it takes less time to drive it to the barn than to cover it. If plows or cultivators are left out over night, they rust, and there is a waste of time in scouring them ready for work."

POTATOES A SPECIALTY

It may be said of Mr. Northcott that he practices mixed farming, but he has well-defined spe-



Some Conveniences that Facilitate the Work of Spraying
The barrels as shown, and which are on Mr. S. A. Northcott's farm, are filled with water from the windmill pump. The spray solutions when prepared are drawn off into the pump-barrel through rubber hose. This equipment is further described in the adjoining article.

cialties. One of these is the potato crop, to which he devotes at least four acres annually. The varieties grown are Early Rose, Empire State and Rural New Yorker No. 2, the first two varieties being his favorites. Speaking of the potato crop, Mr. Northcott said, "One year with another it will average 200 bushels of saleable potatoes an acre. I figure on practically all my potatoes being saleable. They are grown from good seed, from big potatoes—those who plant small seed harvest small potatoes. Each fall, when the potatoes are dug, I pick out the big ones and put them away for seed. Woe betide the womenfolk if they touch them. By selecting good seed in this way, planting big ones and looking after the crop properly, I am sure to have a crop approximately 100 per cent. saleable. On the average, they realize about 55 cents a bushel or more."

An ingeniously-contrived, home-made machine is used for planting the potatoes. This device is attached to the rear of a two-furrowed plow. By making one round with a two-furrowed plow, then

one with a single-furrowed plow to cover the potatoes, the rows are made at a desirable distance apart. The potatoes are plowed in four inches deep. Two horses are used on each plow. The potatoes are cut the same day as planted, one man being kept busy cutting them. With one man to drive the team and one man to drop, one and one-half acre a day can be planted readily. Were this machine fully manned and kept running steadily it would plant from four to five acres a day.

A HOME-MADE POTATO PLANTER

The illustration on page 4 is a fair reproduction of this home-made planting device. As may be seen, there is a hopper from which the potatoes are fed by hand into the trough, which drops them into the furrow. A seat is provided for the operator. The furrow wheel of this planter is an old fly-wheel two feet in diameter, from a roof-pulper. The land-wheel is smaller, only 19 inches in diameter, thus permitting the machine to run level while at work. The planter is three feet wide over all, the hopper two and one-half feet by one foot four inches. The spout or drag, which distributes the potatoes, is four inches wide, and is made with a gentle slope so as to deliver the potatoes about one foot behind the wheel. "The machine works to perfection," said Mr. Northcott, "though it could be considerably improved by supplying a carrier to deliver the potatoes into the furrow. On a 40-rod field I plant from one bushel and one peck to one bushel and two pecks to two rows, depending upon how the seed is cut, and our seed is always cut in generous pieces, from big potatoes."

The advantage of spraying both in the orchard and in the potato patch receives full recognition. "I find," said Mr. Northcott, "that the cost of spraying potatoes is nearly as high as many people report. I use about five pounds of bluestone per acre at each spraying. I give four sprayings in the season, which requires about 20 pounds of bluestone an acre. Approximately, two days are required to make the sprayings for the season. If bugs are prevalent early in the season, the first spraying is made with Paris green alone, the Paris green being added to each of the succeeding sprayings if needed. When spraying is properly carried out, the potatoes stay green until frost comes, and this accounts largely for my favorable yields each year."

PREPARING THE SPRAY MIXTURE

For convenience in preparing his spraying mixture, Mr. Northcott has arranged four kerosene barrels at a convenient height beside his barn. These are filled from the windmill pump. The barrels are kept full of water constantly during the season. The day before it is desired to spray, two lots of bluestone of 10 pounds each are placed in sacks, these sacks being suspended in the water at the top of each of the barrels. The other two barrels receive nine pounds of lime, which has previously been slacked. This is strained into the barrels. Each pair is connected by means of gas-pipe fittings, so that when the bluestone and the lime solutions are properly dissolved, the fluid is drawn from the whole four barrels at once by means of two hose, one from