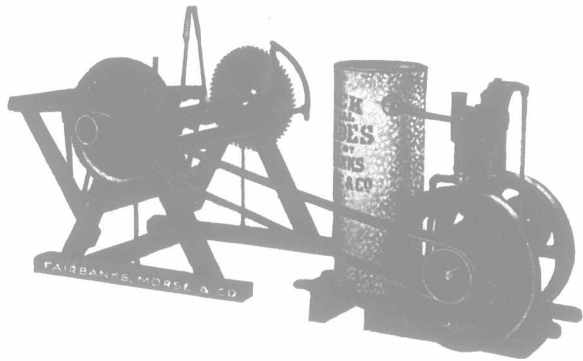
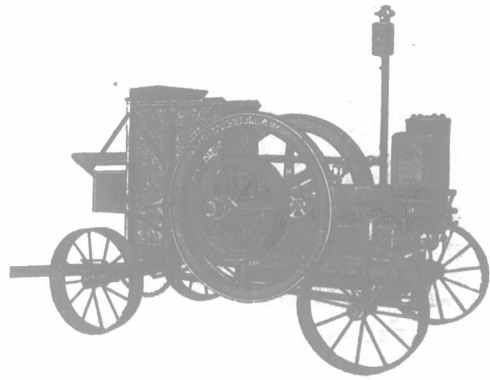
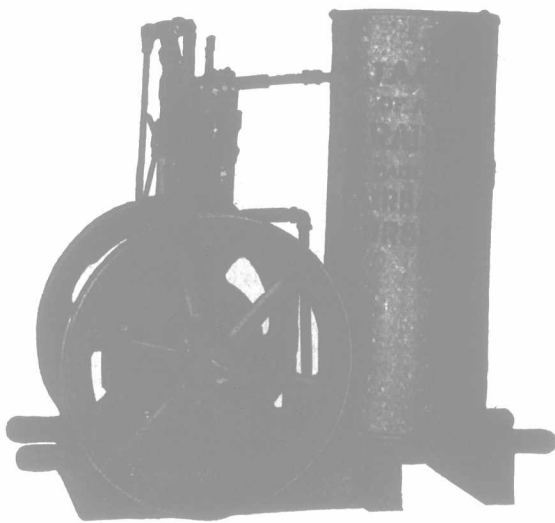


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GOSSIP.

LIVE STOCK AT MACDONALD COLLEGE.

When Mr. R. Reford gave over the ownership of his estate at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, he left behind him a valuable legacy to the future agricultural college, in the reputation of his splendid herd of Ayrshire cattle. Money had not been spared in gathering together some of the best that Scotland had to offer, and the matrons of the present herd combine the essential of utility with beauty of form in a marked degree. But a short time ago, one of the cows produced in one day 65 lbs. of milk, and it is expected that three of the cows will make records of 12,000 lbs. of milk each for the current year. The herd now numbers in all some 70 head, and many of the younger heifers just growing into maturity bid fair to rival, and even exceed, the records of their dams. This herd, therefore, forms the foundation stock of the College farm. During the present year three other breeds, viz., Holsteins, dairy Shorthorns and French-Canadians, are to be added to this stock, in order that full provision may be made for the instructional work in the College. The French-Canadians are now being selected from the best herds in Quebec, and the Shorthorns and Holsteins are to be imported direct during the coming summer. It is the intention to maintain a herd of at least 80 milking cows, besides young stock, and as the business of dairy farming is to be made a prominent feature in the work of the department, every effort will be made to select such animals as will not only be a credit to the breed they represent, but such as will permit of work being carried on here, which may commend itself to the best breeders of the Province.

A large piggery is now nearing completion, built for the accommodation of the pigs which are to be kept on the farm. Four breeds are to be maintained here, viz., Berkshires, Yorkshires, Tamworths and Chester Whites. The foundation stock of the 3 former will be purchased this summer in England. The Chester Whites will be bought later on, in this country.

For the breeding pigs, small individual colony houses are being built, and a small pig farm has been provided for the breeding stock. The demands of the Canadian bacon market will be kept in view in connection with this work, and the students will be furnished every facility for the study of methods in the breeding, feeding and management of swine.

For the present year, dairy cattle and swine will receive greatest attention in the courses offered by the department. The importance of these industries in the Province of Quebec and in Eastern Ontario, merits for them the recognition that they will receive in the work of instruction. The work with sheep, beef cattle and horses will stand in abeyance for the present year, but further accommodation is to be provided, and in due time this work will develop in the way that it deserves.

For convenience in instruction, a large classroom, with raised seats for the students and a commodious arena for the stock has been set apart for the use of the live-stock department. The lecture courses will be given here, and also practice demonstrations in selection and judging. A slaughter-room and a cold-storage-room have also been provided, and as the department is to supply the meat used in the College dining-room, the students will receive demonstrations and practice in the slaughtering and dressing of animals. For the benefit of those interested, announcement may be made now of a two weeks' short course in stock-judging that will be given next January, at which leading breeders of the Province will assist in the classes, and will also deliver lectures.

In the work of the department, the attempt will be made to so combine the teachings of science and of practice that education and inspiration may go hand in hand, and that a greater love and enthusiasm may be created for farm work; and in attempting to serve the interests of the farmers themselves in the improvement of live stock and in the education of their boys, it is hoped that it may be able to win and deserve the good-will and confidence of all interested in progressive agriculture in the Province.

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