

THE JUDGES OF THE ONTARIO FARMS STATE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF WHAT THEY SAW

A Criticism, Favorable and Adverse, of Contesting Farms, in a Comment Upon Conditions as They Were Found by the Judges who Placed Those Farms in Ontario Entered in the Inter-Provincial Dairy Farms Competition

THE work of judging those farms in Ontario entered in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Competition has been completed and the judges have handed in the following reports commenting on the outstanding features of the prize farms. The farms in western Ontario were judged by Mr. Simpson Rennie, Ontario's famous gold medal farmer, assisted by Mr. Chas. C. Nixon, B.S.A., one of the editors of Farm and Dairy. Those farms in Districts No. 2 and 3 (Eastern Ontario) were judged by Mr. Henry Glendinning, of Manilla, president of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, and the well known Institute speaker and dairy authority, who judged the farms in western Ontario in the contest held two years ago, assisted by Mr. F. E. Ellis, B.S.A., another of the editors of Farm and Dairy. The individual standing giving the extended scores of each of the competitors, will be published later when the Quebec farms have been judged, and all reports have been received.

Features of Western Farms

Our ideal by which we judged the farms in the Interprovincial Dairy Farms Prize Competition was that as set forth in the scale of points by which the farms are scored,—the perfect farm in all departments. Not such a farm is to be found. A farm with a good strong average throughout all departments is also a rarity. One such, a competing farm in district No. 4, in western Ontario—a farm fairly strong in almost every department — we discovered and awarded it points above all others by a considerable margin. As to the other farms, though exceedingly strong in some particulars, they were weak, sometimes lamentably so, in other points; these latter, each and all, were scored separately as were the strong departments, and of course

in the grand total they generally offset any advantages gained from the high scoring features. A study of the individual scale of points allotted to each competing farm, which later will be published in Farm and Dairy, will apprise the competitors of those points in which they were weak and thus enable them to strengthen these features and raise their standing in any succeeding competition.

The competing farms in district No. 4 are owned by Messrs. J. C. Bales, Lansing; R. F. Hicks, Newbrook; Isaac Holland, Brownsville; Wm. Jull & Son, Norwich; Jas. Pate, Brantford; W. A. Paterson, Agincourt; A. S. Turner & Son, Ryckman's Corners; and Fred W. Woodley, Boston, respectively. These farms are probably above the

average and are located in the counties of York, Wentworth, Brant, Norfolk and Oxford. We noticed other farms during our travels through these counties that would have taken a creditable standing, perhaps equal if not superior to some of the competing farms, had they been entered in the competition.

In general we were well pleased with the farms and conditions as found thereon. The crops, owing to the prolonged drought that has prevailed in western Ontario for the greater part of the season, were below the average. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather conditions, however, most crops were very fair on the competing farms, and they demonstrated that a good farmer on good soil is in a large measure not wholly dependent on favorable weather.

On most of the competing farms noxious weeds were not prevalent. Some of the more common

competitors. We were somewhat disappointed in not finding it the general practice of the competitors to follow a decided and systematic rotation having in view the upbuilding of the soil and the eradication of weed life.

A SUPERIOR LOT OF LIVE STOCK

Much credit is due the competitors for the superior class of live stock to be found upon their farms. The dairy stock particularly was most creditable, and on some of the farms pure bred stock of the choicest breeding and noted production was to be found. Messrs. Turner, Hicks and Woodley are notable in this particular, and are closely followed by Messrs. Bales, Paterson and Holland. Other than the pure bred stock, the dairy cows were of straight dairy breeding, having been graded up to a high state of excellence and production through the use of good, pure bred dairy sires. Mr. Jull's herd afforded a splendid example of what may be accomplished in grading a herd to a high state of excellence.

For the most part the competitors were all good feeders, which was apparent in the condition of the cattle and the returns as recorded in milk production. Pastures at the time of inspection were brown and dry and some of them exceedingly short.

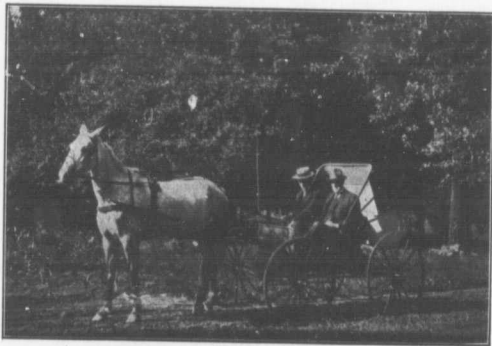
Most of the competitors had planned for such a contingency and were keeping up milk production by supplementary feeding of soiling crops and grains and mill feeds. One competitor, Mr. Holland, stood head and shoulders above his competitors in this particular. He had 50 milking cows and these together with young stock making a total of 65 head, and several head of horses in addition, he had pastured this summer on 36 acres. He feeds his cows regularly twice a day, and has made provision for soiling crops in rotation throughout the season, these crops being alfalfa,

then red clover followed by peas and oats, after which comes millet and the second crop of alfalfa. By the time the season for these crops has passed his corn will be matured and ready for feeding supplementary to the pastures.

SILOS FOR WINTER AND SUMMER

With one exception, every competitor had a silo. Some of them had two silos, the one for summer feeding. Those who were feeding silage in summer spoke very highly of the profit and satisfaction they had received therefrom.

Many of the competitors received a low score for hogs. Some were supplying milk to the city trade and without skim milk and why at their disposal they deemed it unprofitable to keep any considerable number of hogs.



The Judges in Western Ontario, Caught by the Camera

Photo taken on Wm. Jull and Son's farm, Norwich, Ontario, July 15th. Mr. Simpson Rennie is nearest the camera; Chas. C. Nixon holding the reins.

sorts, however, were all too common. On one or two farms Canada thistles were causing great loss, and on another farm quack grass was working great damage. These weeds were not considered by the men on whose farms they were as being specially serious, yet they were probably doing much more harm than would other decidedly bad forms of weed life as they are ordinarily found distributed on weedy farms. In too many cases we found the corn and root crops badly infested with Canada thistles and other weeds; we look upon corn and roots as the principal cleaning crop in the whole rotation, and these should not be neglected. The unwarranted prevalence of these more common weeds can be accounted for by the indifferent rotation followed by most of the