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FACTS ABOUT TWO BROTHERS AND THEIR UNUSUALLY GOOD FARMS

The Secrets of How to Get Big Crops Are Set Forth in This Article by One of Our Editors Who Gathered the Information From Two Outstanding Successful Farmers of York Co., Ont.

A REAL interest in the farm, an ideal life, and satisfactory profits, go hand in hand with the style of farming practised by two farmers of York Co., Ont., Messrs. W. G. Rennie and James A. Rennie, sons of Ontario's famous gold medal farmer, Mr. Simpson Rennie. The Rennie boys are following closely in the footsteps of their father as regards their methods of farm practice. And they are well justified in their practice, as anyone may know who is acquainted with the Rennie farms, and knows of the splendid crops that are grown thereon. The casual passerby can scarcely fail to note on either of these farms—one at Ellesmere, the other at Milliken—something much above the ordinary, and indicative of the fact that a real farmer, thorough going and prosperous, lives there. Both of the farms present many striking characteristics, and a stranger looking for either of them need have little doubt as to their identity as he approaches, since they stand out in considerable contrast to neighboring farms although all of the farms in the district are of a very superior order.

NOT A DAIRY FARM

The system of farming as practised by the Rennies is hardly practicable for all farmers, but in it there are many possibilities capable of being developed elsewhere, and there are many things about these farms worth knowing and worthy of emulation, not to mention a goodly number of practices that would prove highly profitable to every farmer if he would but adopt them. Two months ago an editor of Farm and Dairy spent a day on these two farms gathering information, which would be of value to our readers. It is not possible to set it all forth here in this one article, and from time to time during the coming weeks it will be given in these columns as seems most opportune and in the best interest of our readers.

To farm successfully as the Rennies do calls for the exercise of a high order of intelligence and an intimate knowledge of the great diversity of things pertaining to the farm, of market conditions, of men, and that rare trait of human nature of being satisfied with a real good thing.

Both of these men keep practically no stock whatever during the summer time; thus they are free to take care of their farm and crops to the very best advantage, and they also are to a considerable extent free not only to run their farms but to take real enjoyment out of life as they go along. Later in the season they stock up with feeding cattle and hogs and during the winter months turn their grains and fodders into finished market products, thereby netting the greatest returns and maintaining the fertility of their farms.

It is in crops that the Rennies excel. Their

successfully. Last year with his Lincoln oats he won all of the premier awards for which he entered both in the field and at the large exhibitions.

THE CROPS AND ROTATIONS

The principal crops grown on these farms are oats, barley, peas, clover and timothy, turnips and rape. They are grown in a long rotation of six years' duration, which in some instances is allowed to lengthen out to seven and eight years. The crops and the rotation, it may be noted, are not such as are considered to be most suitable on a dairy farm, but the idea is to feed beef cattle and hogs, all of which are purchased at a favorable season, none of them whatever being raised upon the farm.

The crops appear in the rotation as follows: Peas are grown after

sod; these are followed by fall wheat or oats, after which the land is manured for roots and rape. Following the roots and rape come oats and barley, both of which are seeded down with clover and timothy and left for two years. Peas have been grown every year notwithstanding the weevils (bugs), and this crop has been an important factor in maintaining the soil fertility.

The manure is applied only before the root and rape crop in order that foul seeds may be germinated in a crop in which they can be killed. The turnips are not sown until well on in the season, by which time the weeds have been quite eradicated and the rape land is summer-fallowed well on into the season and sown to rape about the first of August. The rape is sown in the fall with the newly purchased cattle. Barley follows after on the rape land. Since Mr. Rennie has been in the Field Crop Competition he has

found it good policy to put his oats on the rape and root land in order to ensure a winning crop, otherwise he would reserve this all for his barley.

The rotation, as explained in the foregoing, is the system followed by Mr. Simpson Rennie 25 years ago when he won the gold medal for the province, and it is the system that has worked so successfully throughout all of the years since.

MOISTURE IS THE BIG FACTOR

The Rennies recognise the fact that moisture is the big point, in crop production. They manage their soil so as to have it in that condition where it will absorb all of the rain that falls, whenever it comes. There is a great deal in the



The Old Home of Ontario's Famous Gold Medal Farmer.—Now Owned by Jas. A. Rennie



The Garden, Home and Farm Buildings on Mr. W. G. Rennie's Farm

The subject matter of the adjoining article relates to these two places, the farms owned and worked by two sons of Mr. Simpson Rennie.—Photos by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

farms each approximate 100 acres, Mr. Will Rennie having 97 1-2 and Mr. Jas. Rennie 102 1-2 acres. The soil is of a clay loam nature, the land lying almost level for the most part, with but enough roll to make possible satisfactory systems of under drainage. It is so cultivated as to produce maximum crops without depleting fertility.

Most of our time was spent with Mr. W. G. Rennie on his farm at Ellesmere, and since his practice with few variations is the counterpart of that as followed by his brother, we shall refer to his place in more particular. He has competed in the Standing Field Crop Competitions now for the fourth year and has competed most