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IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM JUDGING DAIRY FARMS IN WESTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Henry Glendinning, the Judge of the Dairy Farms in Districts Nos. 3 and 4, Talks About Some Features of the Competing Farms that Came Under His Inspection

"GOOD buildings, good stock, good farms and these for the most part well managed!" Such were the comments made by Mr. Henry Glendinning of Manila, while discussing the merits of those farms in Western Ontario competing in the Prize Farms Competition that was conducted during the past year by Farm and Dairy. "Good as these farms were," said Mr. Glendinning, who was the judge, "none of them were perfect. Those scoring high in one particular were invariably low on some other point. There is room for improvement on all of the competing farms notwithstanding the fact that individually and collectively they rank much above the average farms of this province, or of the Dominion.

"The character of the dwellings and of the stables on the competing farms are particularly worthy of note. Many of the houses were exceptionally good. These were well furnished. Many of them were supplied with water on tap. Barns, almost without exception, were supplied with water right in the stables where the stock could help themselves at will. These barns were large and commodious, well lighted, and many were painted. Cement floors and mangers were commonly found. The majority of the stables were white-washed and were kept neat and clean.

LACK OF VENTILATION

"But, good as these stables were in these respects," continued Mr. Glendinning, "with one or two exceptions all could be greatly improved as regards ventilation. It would appear that this matter of ventilation is the weakest point in the dairy barns of Ontario. Any attempt at ventilation in the majority of instances was by means of the windows, by tile in the walls and by feed-

ing chutes, systems, which while better than none, are far from adequate.

"Save in one instance, all the competitors were making an attempt to practise a rotation of crops. Fields had been enlarged so as to better permit of a suitable rotation and to economize in the matter of labor and time through the use of large implements hauled by three or four horse teams. The best results in the way of crops were evident on those farms that practised a short rotation. The three year rotation, which is clover, roots or corn, and then grain seeded down, had given distinct results on the farms where it had been practised. The four year rotation was perhaps the most popular although some practised a five or a six year rotation.

AN UNFAVORABLE YEAR

"The year 1909 was not the most favorable one for crops and for that reason it was a bad season for many to show just what they can do with crops. It will be remembered that it was wet late in the spring, that being followed by extremely dry weather. Crops, therefore, did not show up to advantage. Especially was this true of those farms in the neighborhood of Brampton. They suffered much from the dry weather. Further west there was more rain at this season. They were caught by drought, however, later in the season when in the more easterly districts there was plenty of rain.

"It was not difficult to distinguish between those farms that had been under-drained and those where drainage was lacking. More or less tile draining was a part of almost every competing farm. Some competitors had many miles of drains and on these farms invariably were to be found, the best crops. Where the drains

were, the crops were found to be the best on the lowest land, whereas in nearby fields, land, equally as low, was almost unproductive owing to the lack of underdrainage which drainage was vitally essential in a season like the one just past.

GROWING COW FEED ONLY

"The suitability of the crops grown on these competing farms is worthy of note. Those who stood the highest, for the most part grew only cow feed. Some sold a part of their grain and replaced it with mill-feeds, brewer's grains and oil-cake. Brewer's grains were especially popular in the neighborhood of Toronto. The most successful farmers and those who stand at the top or near the top in the final score, were those farmers that are feeding corn silage and alfalfa hay. Some of the competitors could considerably increase the productiveness of their farms by paying more attention to this matter of suitable crops and by working clover into their rotation in such a way that it would be on the land more frequently or having shorter intervals between one clover crop and the next. Several of the competitors were feeding all the grain and fodder produced upon their farms. These were the men that were reaping the best results.

"The question of general farm improvement had not been overlooked, although some of the competitors were far ahead of others in respect to modern conveniences, labor saving contrivances, neatness of buildings and surroundings. Fences, especially, had received much attention. On some of the farms, rail and stump fences had been practically given place completely to modern woven-wire fences. It was really wonderful to note the manner in which many of the farms had been cleaned up for this competition. Piles of stuff in some instances had been gathered up and had been disposed of, which material had for years been an eye-sore to the place.

"Good dairy stock was the main feature of the



High Scoring Barns, Owned by Mr. Isaac Holland, Brownsville, Ont., is the Dairy Farms Competition

Many fine barns were among those on the farms entered in the Dairy Farms Competition that was conducted over Ontario last year by Farm and Dairy. The barn illustrated took a high score, as will be seen from the table on another page of this issue. Read the article on this page which gives the impressions gained by Mr. Hy. Glendinning, the judge of those farms in Western Ontario, from his two inspections of those farms. A number of the leading farms will compete this year to determine the best dairy farms in the province.