



A Scene in Oxford County, Ont., Where Good Dairy Cattle and Prosperous Farmers are the Rule

Where we find farmers with large dairy herds, intelligently managed, there do we also find greater prosperity and more contentment than in rural sections given over to other lines of agriculture. The home and herd here illustrated are the property of Mr. Frank Grimm, Oxford Co., Ont., a county in which may be found many farmers who have attained a competence through their dairy herds. Anyone who knows of Oxford county and its record as a dairy district cannot doubt that the "dairy level" is one of the best things that can attack the people of a county. It means a more fertile soil, a stabler population and a better satisfied people generally.

Dairy Cattle in Community Development

By "A Native of Oxford"

Oxford county of Ontario affords us a splendid example of the name and fame that may be acquired by any district that goes in for some one breed of dairy stock. At the last Canadian National Exhibition, the greatest annual live stock show in Canada, practically every prize winning animal was either owned by an Oxford county exhibitor or was the product of some Oxford farmer's skill as a breeder. During the first day of the Holstein judging at Toronto all of the prizes except one were captured by Haley Bros., of our banner dairy county. Away down east in Nova Scotia, and in the far western province of British Columbia, the leading prize winners in the Holstein classes at their fairs this year were Oxford bred animals. "Bred in Oxford county," has come to be regarded as a passport to excellence in the extremes of our Dominion. Who has not heard of James Rettie, A. E. Hulet and Geo. Rice? There are dozens of other breeders in our county not so well known, but who are "making good" with their black and white favorites.

While our pure bred herds have made a name for Oxford county in other parts of Canada, the pure bred stock in the county has been doing a great and good work for every farmer who will take advantage of his opportunities. Herds that 10 or 12 years ago were composed of mongrels of nondescript breeding and producing their 3,000 lbs. of milk annually, are now made up entirely of black and white grades producing their 6,000 to 16,000 lbs. of milk a year, and this without any very great expense to the owners. It is the result of pure blood introduced into mongrel herds.

BAVY SALES ARE RESULT

Buyers are beginning to find that in Oxford county they can pick up good animals without travelling very far, and in a short space of time. There is some satisfaction in buying cattle where practically everybody has at least a few good ones. There are lots of other sections of Ontario with good Holstein herds; but in Oxford county we have quantity as well as quality, and hence buyers come our way.

I have often heard visitors to our county remark on the splendid farms and farm buildings that are in evidence everywhere. Brick and stone residences that would do credit to any prosperous city merchant, grace our dairy farms. I have travelled pretty extensively, but I have yet to see the section where the crops and buildings, on the average, can excel those of Oxford. And there is a direct relationship between the quality of our stock and the splendid farms and farm buildings that are ours. There are hundreds of our

citizens who can remember when Oxford was not one bit better in any particular than any other good farming section of Ontario. This development we all agree is due to dairying. And our prosperity and success is now being accentuated just in so far as we go in more and more for pure bred Holstein cattle.

This article is not intended as a boost either for Holstein cattle or for Oxford county. It is written to show the part that pure bred dairy cattle can be made to play in community development. To find a section that compares with Oxford county we must go down into the Chateaugay District of Quebec, where the Ayr-



Starting in the Way He Should Go

Mr. J. J. Tannahill, of Huntingdon Co., Que., and his young grandson may be here seen examining the good points of one of the members of their own Holstein herd. There is nothing like good stock around the farm to inspire the youngsters with a love for the farm and to give them an interest in farm life!

shire has done fully as much for that district as has the Holstein for us. Many may disagree with me in my estimate of the excellencies of our county, but that there are excellencies all will agree. If citizens of Oxford county be questioned as to the cause of their prosperity, the lesson learned will give one a new appreciation of the beneficial effects that flow from community breeding and dairying.

Don't leave ends of wire lying along fences after building or repairing. You'll be sure to talk about it the first time you run into them with the mower.

Scientific Plant Breeding in Scandinavia

L. H. Newman, Ottawa, Ont.

The scientific breeding of more useful varieties of field crops, which has reached so high a point in Sweden, has come to be looked upon in that country as a work of great national importance. It is clearly a matter of concern to the nation to have varieties of crops which are capable of thriving to advantage over a large part of the country and furnishing a means of livelihood to a large population.

Sweden is a country of extremes. In the south her climate is maritime, and is greatly modified by the Gulf Stream. As we proceed northward over the 1,000 miles of territory which separate the northern and southern extremities, it naturally becomes cooler and also more variable, due in part to the presence of many lakes and rivers. The precipitation is also exceedingly variable, both as to distribution and as to season. Certain parts scarcely ever obtain sufficient moisture, others receive an excess although, unfortunately, this comes during harvest time. All these circumstances mitigate against successful crop raising so that the advent of a new variety which is better able to cope with the conditions of a given region is a matter of great importance to the community and to the nation. Thanks to the work of the Swedish experts several superior varieties of the leading crops (wheat, oats, barley, peas, vetches, grasses, clovers and potatoes) have been produced, and profitable crops are now being raised in districts which previously reaped but a scant return.

It is exceedingly interesting and inspiring to see with what interest all classes of people follow the agricultural development in this country of patriots and how fully they appreciate its far-reaching importance.

"Pure bred" is not a pass word to excellence. "Pure bred, well bred," is.

We have farmers here and there are likely the same in every neighborhood, who farm altogether with old tools. They keep up their supply from public sales where they get what they call bargains. So far from being bargains, the average old farm tool is about the fastest money-loser we can conceive of. An old corn planter that is not dropping just right can lose a man more faster than anything else on the farm.—S. F. Oxford Co., Ont.

*Mr. Newman's book, "Plant Breeding in Scandinavia" 192 pages with 53 illustrations. \$1.00 net. cloth-bound \$1.50 to which reference was made in a recent number of Farm and Dairy, deals with the whole subject of plant improvement as practiced in Sweden, in a comprehensive manner.

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