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## KINGSTONIAN IN THE WEST

James Gordon Has Had Distinguished Career in Farming.

(Contributed.)

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune," so wrote Shakespeare, and so it is. The difficulty is sometimes to recognize the psychological moment when the tide is at the flood. For twenty years James Gordon lived on his own farm of two hundred acres at Maple View, ten miles east of Kingston, Ont. Mr. Gordon was an enthusiastic breeder of Holstein cattle and one of the best and most successful dairymen of the day. He also took a prominent part in public affairs and was a generous and hearty supporter of any scheme for the welfare of his community. He served for a term as reeve of the township of Pittsburgh, and although he served on the township council for a period of six years, and was also a member of the county council of Frontenac. In scholastic affairs he showed the deepest interest, and occupied the office of trustee on the school board for no less than twelve years. Nor was Mr. Gordon behindhand in his interest in ecclesiastical affairs. A devoted member of the Methodist church, he was for five years superintendent of the Sunday school in Zion Methodist church, Pittsburgh, and for fifteen years a member of the trustee board of the same church. He was also a director of the cheese factory in Pittsburgh for ten years.

Early in life Mr. Gordon married the eldest daughter of the late Robt. Shannon, a man well-known in Kingston district as one of the largest breeders of pure-bred Holstein cattle. Mrs. Gordon proved a helpmate, indeed, and to her influence and assistance Mr. Gordon attributes his present position; their home relations have been singularly happy, their union has been blessed with a family of four sons and one daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon are famed for their hospitality and it may safely be said the greatest cordiality exists between them and the whole community.

A life-long abstainer, Mr. Gordon is a strong advocate for prohibition. In politics he is an ardent Liberal. Recently, strong representations were made to him to stand for reeve and councillor of the rural municipality of Loganton, but Mr. Gordon declined to give up the quiet enjoyment of his own happy fre-side for the wider influence of municipal affairs; yet Mr. Gordon has done public duty since coming west. For two years he was a member of the Disile town school board and has been a trustee of the Disile Methodist church management board for a number of years, and is also a member of the United Grain Growers' Association.

Mr. Gordon took the tide at full flood. The call of the west became so insistent until at last it could no longer be resisted. Following the example of Caleb and Joshua of old, who went to spy out the land, Mr. Gordon travelled to the west, sojourning for one year, studying western methods and customs and finally purchasing his present farm, when

he returned to the east, sold what he considered unsuitable for the west, and with his family and possessions migrated to Disile district in Saskatchewan, where he has now been located for ten years.

Western conditions, houses, customs, the illimitable vastness of the prairies, the paucity of trees, the lack of modern conveniences, the garden bare of flowers, fruit trees, or shrubs, did not hold much attraction for Mr. Gordon, who, on describing the beautiful home orchard and garden with its numerous beehives left in old Ontario, would with a very expressive sweep of her hand add, "And we left it all for this." Nevertheless, Mrs. Gordon is a true homemaker, her never-failing good spirits and optimistic outlook were a great stimulus and comfort to her husband and sons, "to make good," and they have achieved remarkable success. As for Saskatchewan, Mr. Gordon replied, "Yes, I am sorry I did not leave it years earlier."

In 1915 Mr. Gordon grew on his farm sixteen thousand bushels of wheat, when wheat was selling at \$1.60. In 1918 he had ten thousand bushels, when wheat was \$2.02, and a ten-year average works out at nine thousand bushels per year. In 1918 Mr. Gordon deserted the old dwellinghouse, barns, etc., on the north corner of S.E. 20, 34, S. W. 3rd., and erected the present handsome and commodious buildings on the south corner of the same quarter, two miles east of the town of Disile. The dwelling house is a real modern home, fully equipped with every up-to-date convenience lighted by electricity and heated from the basement by a furnace. The basement is divided into three rooms, one is fitted as a milk house and dairy room, another as wash house, where a large tank of soft water proves a very valuable asset when the sloughs and creeks dry up and Jupiter Pluvius goes on a long holiday. The walls and floors are of cement and although well lighted and ventilated, yet all rooms are thoroughly frost-proof.

Among the kitchen and scullery improvements may be noted the sink and taps. The pantry is large and roomy and replete with every convenience and many step-saving devices, double hinge doors open direct from the pantry on one side to the dining room, and on the other side to the kitchen.

The dining room and drawing-room are commodious and handsomely finished and furnished, and are lighted by large bay windows, while the sitting room is snug and cosy as a sitting room should be. The front hall faces the south and is built on a generous plan while a wide flight of stairs leads to the rooms above. The stairway divides at the first landing and returns direct to the sitting room or proceeds upstairs. There are five bedrooms, a bathroom and a linen closet upstairs where one of the rooms opens out by a French window to a balcony where a splendid view of the surrounding country extending over many miles can be obtained. A verandah on the south side affords a charming resting place for the afternoon and evening.

The barn is a commanding feature and is built on the same generous proportions as the dwelling house. It is also lighted by electricity and is ventilated after the latest approved method, also fitted with lightning rods. The flooring of stalls and passageways is of cement. What is not very common in the cold west is the porch at the south door. The value of this can best be appreciated when the temperature is away down, forty below, or thereby. A team driving in can be shut in the porch until the outer doors are closed, thus preventing the cooling of the barn. The stalls run the whole length of the building on either side with a wide passage in the centre. There is also a feed passage in front of the mangers on either side. The barn is laid out with two box stalls, three double and twelve single stalls for horses, and iron stanchions for six head of cattle. A regular, broad stairway leads to the mow above, where there are three feeding chutes two in front of the horses and one in front of the cattle. Large oat bins on either side have also chutes leading below. Another noticeable feature is a large water tank, capable of holding some 50 or 60 barrels of water, with underground piping, eight feet below the surface of the ground, leading from the windmill pump. The mow is capable of holding 50 tons of hay, or probably 20,000 oatstraws. The carrier track and slings are in use and form an easy and speedy means of unloading the feed while the sliding doors are especially convenient, and easily operated on the rope and weight system.

The cute chicken house with its two cupolas provides warm, roomy quarters for the poultry. It is divided into two parts, a feeding and scratching room, and a roosting, laying and living room. The dropping boards which fit tight form a ceiling to the nesting house, if one might so call it, the entrance is at the extreme end and large enough to admit one hen at a time. The nests are divided off and extend the whole length of the roosts. The front is boarded in, making the nesting place comparatively dark, while a hinged

door can be dropped and the eggs abstracted. Fresh eggs are plentiful throughout the winter. The other outbuildings on the farm consist of a garage, two granaries and two implement sheds. The binders stay in the implement sheds until harvest and as soon as the last sheaf is cut are returned to their quarters. The same might be said of the other machinery and waggons, when their turn is served they are again put under cover fully protected from the weather. Mr. Gordon brought a number of his best dairy cows from Ontario with him and for a number of years milked eight cows, shipping the milk and cream to the city of Saskatoon, but latterly kept only cows sufficient to supply the farm needs. Although a great lover of horses, and keeping sixteen head, Mr. Gordon finds that means of locomotion too slow and enjoys a ride in his large McLaughlin car, and it is the sincere hope and wish of their hosts of friends that Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and family may long be spared and have good health to enjoy the car outings and the delights and comforts of their ideal home.

Talk of Consolidated School. The school situation both in the village of Calabogie and the surrounding district, has brought to the front among those that are really interested in the education of the

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## TWICE TOLD TALES

### News of Kingston

**TEN YEARS AGO.** The Kingston Shipbuilding Company will have to pay school tax on \$150,000, the assessment fixed by the court of revision last November. Postmaster Stewart has secured four more navy recruits from Kingston.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong McCormick have just celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary.

R. H. Vair, Glenburnie, has been appointed census commissioner for the county.

T. H. Brooks, a former Kingstonian, has returned here for a visit after an absence of forty years.

The Board of Works plans to build three miles of roadway each year for four years, the twelve miles to cost \$50,000.

G. H. Waterhouse, Canadian Express agent, says there are practically no changes in the new tariff.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.** President Knapp, of the Frontenac Patrons of Industry, has gone to Toronto on matters of interest to the association.

Captain Maxse, of the Coldstream Guards, a well-known military writer, has been in the city for some time.

Thomas Carson is making arrangements to enter his water spaniels at the shows in Chicago and St. Louis.

A woman going under the name of "Miss Johnston" has been securing goods from local merchants under false pretences.

Belleville and Victorias cross sticks to-night in one of the last games of this season in Kingston.

Engineers sent out to other cities have convinced City Engineer Bolger that it is the best plan to have the electric light plant owned by the city.

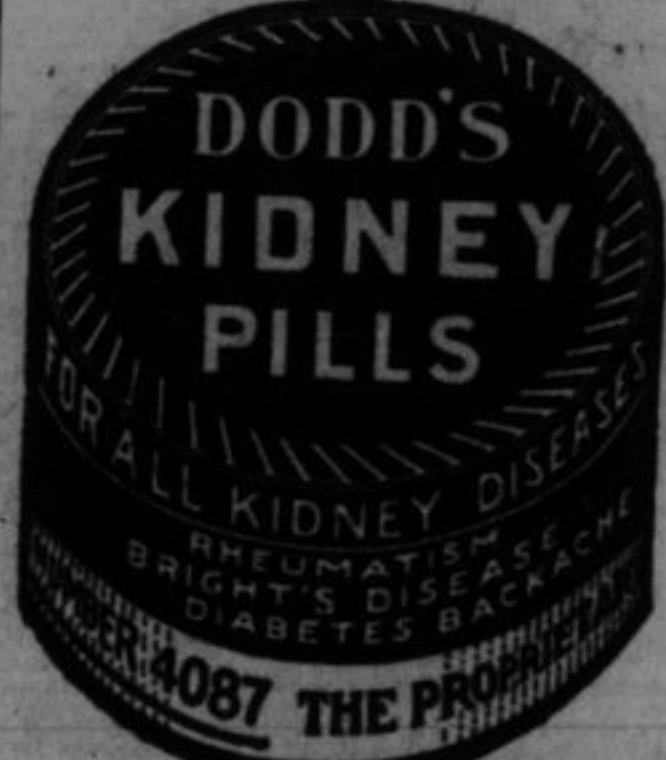
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