THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday.
It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, $1.50 per year, in advance; $2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, $2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

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effects; nothing else can be better practice for them. To keep a single-entry ledger, with a small number of accounts, requires hardly any knowledge of the art of bookkeeping. Self-critical practice in this, as well as in other things, makes for increasing skill and efficiency.

The simplest kind of bookkeeping, if it can be called by that name, is the taking and keeping the record of an annual, or shorter period, inventory. Debts, if any, are to be subtracted from the total of the assets; the difference shows what the farmer is worth at the time. The next similarly-discovered difference will show, by comparison, his gain or loss for the year, or whatever the period that has elapsed since the preceding inventory was taken. For example:

March 1st, 1910.		
Assets:		
Farm, 90 acres, and buildings		$5,600 00
Stock (itemized and valued):		
Horses	$	
.... etc.		
Cows		
.... etc.		
Hogs		1,500 00
Produce on hand (itemized and valued):		
Oats		
.... etc.		312 00
Implements (itemized and valued:		
....		
.... etc.		580 00
Cash on hnad		64 00
Total		$8,056 00
Liabilities:		
Mortgage and interest	$838 00	
Note due McConnel on binder	50 00	888 00
Present worth		$6,698 00

(In the above statement each horse and cow is supposed to be mentioned by name or number and valued separately.)

If a similar inventory, taken on the first week of March, 1911, shows the total assets to be $8,849.00, and the liabilities $1,013.00, then the present worth is $7,836.00, and the gain in the year is $1,138.00.

While this periodical taking and comparison of inventories shows the total gain or loss, it does not show upon what parts of the business gains have been made or losses incurred, or the relative gain or loss among the different parts. To arrive at this knowledge, which is manifestly of the highest importance in making plans for the future, what is practically a ledger account must be kept with each factor whose effect upon the total result it is desirable to know.

A farmer may keep a ledger, without any other kind of book. In it he will record his inventories and open accounts with the factors of which he wishes to keep track; for example, sheep, cows, poultry, potatoes, alfalfa, barley, etc. Under the appropriate heading he will enter on the left-hand side every item of cost, investment, labor, etc., incurred on behalf of such factor, and on the right-hand or credit side every item of revenue from it, whether sold or used on the place. It need hardly be added that the difference between the debit and credit sides shows the loss or gain, for example:

Dr. MAPLE SYRUP. Cr.

Dr.		Cr.	
March.		March.	
Inventory of pails, spiles, pans, etc.	$108 00	32 gallons syrup, @ $1.30 ..	$ 41 60
Time, as per time book:		April—24 gallons, @ $1.20.	28 80
Man, 40 hours, @ 20c ...	8 00	" 20 gallons, @ $1.20.	24 00
Horses, 12 hours, @ 15c.	1 80	April—10 gallons for household	12 00
Repairs to pails, cash	1 20	April—Inventory pails, etc	100 00
Estimated value of fuel used	6 00		
Profit	79 40		
	$204 40		$204 40

diary is almost as useful as a daybook, and while there may be good reasons for keeping them in separate books, the farmer who wishes to have as few books as possible to handle may combine cash-book, diary and daybook in one. Dealers in stationery always carry in stock books that are ruled on the right-hand side of the page with double money columns. Such a book, containing about 125 pages, 9 by 13 inches, can be purchased for about 50 cents, or one of about 400 pages, in stronger binding, for $1.25. In such a book, all cash received may be entered in one of the columns, and all cash paid out in the other. For example, see large table below.

The cash may be carried forward from page to page until the end of the month, and the totals, or the difference between them, then transferred to the ledger (cash) account; or the cash may be balanced at the foot of each page. The excess on the debit side, in either case, should agree with the cash on hand. The greater number of the farmer's financial transactions are, or should be,

Date Year	ENTRIES		Ledger page	Cash received Dr.	Cash paid Cr.
March 1	Assets:	$5,600			
	Farm 100 acres and buildings				
	Stock (itemized):				
	.... etc	1,030			
	Produce (itemized):				
	.... etc	312			
	Implements (itemized):				
	.... etc				
	.... etc	580			
	Cash	64		$64 00	
	Total	$7,586	1		
	Liabilities:				
	Mortgage and interest	838			
	Bill payable on binder, McConnel	50			
	Total	$ 888	1		
" 1	Weather stormy; good sleighing. First lamb arrived.				
	Bought of Geo. Gray, 24 bush. seed oats, @ 70c				$16 80
" 2	Fine, cold.				
	Hired C. Clark, @ 30 a month, to come on 21st inst.				
" 3	Fine, milder.				
" 4	Cloudy; wind east, raw; 29°F.				
	Hauled wood.				
" 5	Fall of soft snow; warmer.				
	Traded at Smith & Green's—				
	20 lbs. butter, @ 28c	$5 60	4		
	5 bags potatoes, @ 70c	3 50	3		
		$9 10			
	For groceries as per bill	4 20	5		
	Cash	4 90		4 90	
		$9 10			
	(This means that in the ledger, on page 4, there is an account or statement in which products from the dairy or a particular cow will be credited; also that on page 3 of the ledger there is an account with a field or with the potato crop or sundry farm products, into which the $3.50 will be posted. The statement of household expenses is on page 5 of the ledger.)				
" 6	Sunday, weather pleasant; thawing.				
	Heard Rev. M. Brown, collection				50
" 7	38°F. at noon. L. Kerr reported seeing a robin.				
	Returned a half day's work to C. F. Ray.				
" 8	Roads getting bare in spots.				
	Bought a chopper at McClure's sale for $12; discounted my note for cash				11 00
	Also 2 heifers, red $19, spotted $17; gave my note, payable 8th October, for $36		9		
	(This assumes that I have a statement of notes—payable on the 9th page of the ledger.)				
	etc., etc., etc.				

A time record is indispensable to proper ledger-keeping. On the page or pages devoted to the time report, special columns may be devoted to factors, such as cows, that take time daily. The totals in hours may be transferred monthly to their appropriate accounts. For example:

TIME RECORD (In Hours)

Date	Cows		General	Man	Horse
May 1	2.5		Rolling the barley field	6	12
2	2.		Plowing corn field	7	14
3	2.7		Hauling manure, field No. 4.	3	6
			Spraying	2.5	5
4	2.5		Plowing, field No. 4	8	16

In part of the month of March and part of the month of April, the second column, which is here left blank, might be headed "Maple Syrup."

cash. By entering these in the manner just described, the time of posting the several items in the ledger will be saved.

The inexperienced bookkeeper, at the beginning, will do well to minimize the number of accounts in the ledger. On page 184 of "The Farmer's Advocate" (February 2nd issue), J. H. Coatsworth shows how he posts a set of transactions into only nine ledger accounts, namely: Capital or self, real estate, implements, farm products, William Brown, cash, expense, bills payable, and loss and gain. By using the small number of accounts, a farmer can more easily learn the method, but when he feels he has skill enough to handle the ledger intelligently, he will find it advantageous to increase the number. For example, "farm products" account may be divided into accounts with dairy, orchard, poultry, corn, grain, horses, honey, and "Sundry Farm Products." The following is given as an example of one of such accounts, supposed to be posted from the diary-daybook and time record:

Dr. COWS Cr.

	Day-book page			Day-book page	
March 1, per inventory	1	$637 00	March 5, 20 lbs. butter, @ 28c	1	$ 5 60
" 8, bill payable October	2	36 00	" 12, 22 " " @ 25c	4	5 50
" 23, cash	9	42 00	" 18, 28 " " @ 25c	7	7 00
" 31, month's feed, estimated		37 00	" 20, 2 gallons cream, @ 50c	8	1 00
" 31, 60 hours' time, @ 20c	10	12 00	" 20, 25 lbs. butter, @ 22c	13	5 50
			" 26, 10 " " @ 27c	13	2 70
		$764 00	" 26, estimated value of manure		7 00
Gain in month		54 30	" 26, *estimated value of herd*		785 00
			(The last entry is usually written in red ink.)		
					$818 30

It is obviously an easy matter to keep a dated statement of every item of cash paid out and received, a time record and ledger accounts with each of the important factors of the business. But it will pay to add to these a daybook. Several of our bookkeeping correspondents strongly advised combining a diary with the daybook. A

The inference from the above account is that, on the ninth page of the diary-daybook, there is a record of the purchase of a cow for $42 cash, and on the thirteenth page a statement of the exchange of two lots of butter for cash or merchandise. There is also an implication that the tenth, and probably the two following pages, are to be used for a time record.