

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.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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tion of her products of the farm, the dairy, the orchard, the mine and her fisheries, at the Provincial fair in New Westminster, one of the best-equipped and most ably-managed exhibitions in the Dominion. The dates for these leading shows are published elsewhere in this paper, together with many of lesser note, but of proportionate influence and usefulness in their own sphere, most of which well deserve the support and encouragement of the people in the sections in which they are held. Farmers and their families should plan to take advantage of the opportunity for the recreation, after the stress of the season's work and the harvest-home, which the fairs afford.

As Others See Us.

No man really sees his peculiarities of character exactly as others see them. Some think they do, and some think they know themselves better than others know them; these are the most sadly deceived of all. A few pretty level-headed people are conscious of certain idiosyncrasies of which their friends have made them aware, but these are not the self-centered ones who are so positive they have an accurate idea of their own characters. Put it down as a general rule that the persons whose minds dwell habitually upon their own virtues and shortcomings, attach an exaggerated importance to the points in which they excel, and look with uncommon charity upon the points wherein they fancy their faults lie. One thing, too, they are almost sure to do, they fail to appreciate their own colossal self-centeredness, not to say conceit. It is a good thing to ascertain one's peculiarities, and quietly endeavor to overcome them; but it is very much better to accept a friend's verdict than one's own sizing up. No man can judge his own child; much less can he judge himself. It is mischievous to let one's mind dwell too long or frequently upon himself. Worst of all is it to be continually parading the self-

drawn character-sketch before others. Conceit is a dangerous and obnoxious parasite, which fattens alike upon flattery and opposition. The best treatment is starvation. Think not of yourself, but of others.

Is the Road Grader Misused?

A good deal has been said officially and otherwise regarding the advantages of the graders in municipal roadmaking. Properly used, they are a labor-saving implement, but from our observations in different parts of the country, we are satisfied that they are becoming greatly misused, and their operation is liable to degenerate into a sheer make-shifting waste of money. We have seen graders working, the outfit consisting of a traction engine, a team of horses and two or three men, involving an expenditure of probably \$15 per day, and all that they accomplished was to scrape up a few loose stones and some dust into the center of the roadway, spoiling it, and sometimes turning the edges into the ditch, tending to fill the latter and make drainage still worse. The money thus wasted should have been spent in opening up ditches and putting in culverts at crossroad intersections so that the water could get away, and where the crown was in good condition, applying a good coat of gravel. Some municipal authorities appear to have got it into their heads that, once the grader was purchased, all the rest was easy and the road trouble was solved. We are quite satisfied that in a few years the last stage will be infinitely worse than the first, and the ratepayers will have practically no roads as the result of such costly blundering.

In the first place, the work to be done in the season should be carefully planned early in spring, after a personal examination by the road commissioners, councillors or committee, equipped with some knowledge and experience in roadmaking, and, once a piece of work is begun it should be completed, instead of going in a hop-skip-and-jump fashion from one part of the municipality to another. The work ought to be done as early as possible, before the earth becomes hopelessly hard. After the work is laid out systematically, then the all-important point is to put the machine in charge of a competent operator, capable of following instructions. This is a subject of so much vital concern to the people whose money is being spent, that we should like to hear from municipal authorities and others as to the results of their experience with the grader, and how it can be most effectively and economically used in road construction and repairs.

Where Farm Labor Counts for Most.

Food for thought is to be found in some examples cited recently at a Kentucky convention by Prof. Knapp, who undertook to demonstrate the advantage of the exercise of mental faculties in connection with manual labor.

The Iowan is taken as an example of the higher educated, more intelligent class of farmer. In Iowa, agriculture yields to each man who works at it one thousand and eighty-eight dollars annually, Vermont four hundred and seventeen, South Carolina one hundred and forty-seven, and Alabama one hundred and fifty. Nor is this due to any particular or relative difference in the fertility of the soil. Iowa has four horses for each of her farm workers to use, while South Carolina has one mule for every two men. Five times the amount of power is used for cultural purposes in Iowa as in Carolina, and the returns are eight times as great. Unconsciously, the Iowan conducts his business in accord with the law of increasing returns; that is, he is demonstrating that the returns for his work go on increasing out of proportion to the value of the labor he expends, and that course is open and imperative for us if we are to attain to greater average productivity.

The Carolinian is an example of the poorer class of farmers, who invariably do a little less work on their land than will result in even average returns, and from the fact that they have only half a horse to each man, we must conclude that very little mechanical ingenuity is called into play.

Our Western Letter.

By the time this reaches the readers of "The Farmer's Advocate," the leading shows of the West will be over. We are early in this business out here, for the Westerner does not like to attend shows in harvest time, and threshing follows close on harvest, and so it's a case of "now, or never." Every year shows a marked improvement in nearly every class of stock. Heavy horses are the long suit of many of the ranchers, and at one small show—such as your township show in Ontario—there were close to three hundred entries. The Shorthorn men are also coming strong, and many a keen contest was witnessed in the ring this year. Herefords always were a leading class in the range country, and of late years they have gathered strength. Altogether, the outlook for live stock seems exceedingly bright. One strong feature of the shows in Alberta was the effort made to furnish educational demonstrations of interest to the people. The Provincial Department of Agriculture provided experts with full equipment for demonstrations in poultry-raising, feeding and management; weeds, identification and destruction; dairying and milk-testing; and, for the ladies, cooking and domestic science. All day long the tents were crowded, and it is quite evident that, though they may not do as they were told, yet the people were at least very eager to listen and to learn, and that is the first step in the right direction. When people lose faith in old methods there is hope for them—the first doubt was the womb and cradle of progress.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has lately seen visions of mange. It has brought this nightmare fresh from the range, and turned it loose on the people of Ontario. I am vaguely wondering where you found that bad case that was displayed so prominently in your columns a few weeks ago. I have been in the heart of the range country for some time now, and have never seen a single case. Perhaps this exists in the minds of the Ontario people, as does the idea of diseased Canadian cattle in the minds of the British public. The fact is that compulsory dipping has cleaned the disease out of the country, and at the present time it is practically non-existent. When you speak of an embargo against our products, it is well to remember that two can play at that game, and the importation of your scab apples might well be restricted, in order to prevent injury to our growing fruit industry in the West. This is the healthiest country in the world for horses and cattle. We have long sunshine, clear air, and good food for man and beast. Why shouldn't we be healthy?

But still, "Sandy Fraser" doesn't like the West. Years ago he came out here and looked it over. He lacked faith, and returned. Really, away down deep in his heart he is sorry for it, sorry that he did not stay and profit by the country's progress; but in a spirit of sourness at his own mistake, he expresses his gratitude at the fact that he bought a return ticket. We, too, are glad. There is no place in the West for men of small faith and narrow vision, and right good cause have we for congratulation when men of that class buy return tickets and go back to their native habitat amid the moss-covered stumps and snake fences of the good old county of Glengarry.

R. J. DEACHMAN.

A Field It Pays to Work.

The greatest field to cultivate is the mind. Minds vary as do areas of real estate, but in either case the harvest usually depends more upon the cultivation, and feeding than the character of the original soil. Land may be impoverished or improved; so may the mind. Deterioration or improvement does not really affect the potentialities of the land, but merely its immediate productivity. If run down it can be built up again, and vice versa. To a certain extent this principle applies in the cultivation of intellectual faculties, but as the span of human existence is short, and as one's life is judged not by a year's production in his prime, but by the total fruits of a lifetime's efforts, he cannot afford to work many years at low pressure. The possibilities of the brain are such that one may till it industriously for at least half a century, steadily increasing the harvest year by year.

Pleased with Book on the Plank-frame Barn.

Received premium (book on plank-frame barn construction) with thanks, and think it will be a great boon to farmers intending to build. I take much pleasure in reading "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine."

Lambton Co., Ont. W. H. NORTHCOTT.