

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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### Improving the Fair.

We congratulate the public-spirited ratepayers of Toronto upon the overwhelming majority with which they carried the by-law granting \$133,500 for the erection of new buildings for the Industrial Exhibition. The business and municipal leaders of Toronto are backed up by the people in determining that the fair of the future is to excel its predecessors in utility, attractiveness, and success. In 1900 the side-show and faker element, ran riot and signs of degeneracy, from a mercantile and manufacturing point of view, had set in. This alienated public sympathy and confidence; but last season witnessed a very decided improvement and a determination on the part of the management to make it par excellence a real industrial exhibition of an attractive character, but not surfeiting the people with "attractions." Public confidence has evidently been restored, for the money once refused is now cheerfully voted. Great credit is due the press of Toronto for their share in the good work. Foremost among the needs is a new main building, which should be a veritable hive of industry; a new dairy building, where products, apparatus and dairy processes can all be properly represented under one roof; better accommodation for the carriage exhibits; and a suitable pavilion where the judging of cattle and other live stock can be viewed by the public, making it what it should be, a valuable educational feature of the fair. Our people are hungering for information, and can be educated to appreciate a high-grade fair as well as a circus, as witness the success of the Ontario Winter Fair. The Pan-American ran to "attractions," "fireworks" and the "midway," and was a great financial failure; the Glasgow Exhibition tended in the other direction, and proved a boon to the great Scottish city and a wonderful financial success. Toronto is on the right track, and the other big Canadian fairs will feel the stimulating and healthful influence of its example.

### The New Macdonald School.

Dr. James Mills, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, and Mr. G. M. Miller, architect, have been on a tour of observation to various educational institutions in the Western States, and make a similar tour through the Eastern States, preparatory to deciding on suitable plans for the new nature-study and domestic-science building for teachers at Guelph. We understand that it is to be located on the Agricultural College grounds, north of the present main building and that probably \$100,000 out of the \$125,000 given by Sir Wm. Macdonald, of Montreal, will be expended upon its construction. So far as the relation of the institution to the public educational machinery of the country and its beneficial influence upon our school system are concerned, the problem of paramount importance now will be the policy and plan of its operations, which is dealt with at some length in the leading article of the present issue of the "Farmer's Advocate." The very nature of the gift to the Province implies long and serious consideration on the part of the donor, and, since the first intimation of it, by the Provincial authorities specially concerned. As readers of the "Advocate" might also infer from articles published some issues ago, the subject is one that the Dominion Agricultural Commissioner, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, has taken a very active share in promoting.

### Dangerous Edibles.

One of our American contemporaries has the following to say of a recent occurrence:

"The St. Paul representatives of three meat-packing houses—Armour, Swift, and Morris—were fined \$25 each, recently, for the use of preservatives in sausage and meat products, such as are supplied to consumers by the retail meat dealers and grocers who sell meats. Investigation disclosed that scarcely any of these products offered to the public were without the presence of preservatives of some kind, principally borax, salicylic acid, and occasionally formaldehyde. The use of these is forbidden by law. It is the same general proposition as the 'embalmed beef' which caused the army so much trouble in Cuba and the Philippines. Only there they used the preservatives in larger quantities. The preservatives retard the digestion of the meat, and of course injure the stomach."

If there is one thing, as Canadians, we can congratulate ourselves on, it is the absence of filled cheese, oleomargarine, etc. Counterfeits of edibles are prohibited and are not manufactured in Canada. We produce the real thing!

### A Call to Farmers.

The columns of the "Farmer's Advocate" have ever been devoted to the furtherance of progressive agriculture, one form of which we believe to be in the establishment of an agricultural college by the Province of Manitoba. In view of the fact that rumors of elections are in the air, the farming community should see that their interests, educational and otherwise, get the attention from the political parties that their importance warrant. Every candidate should be pledged to agitate for and support the establishment of an agricultural college. This should be made a personal matter, and each and every farmer should pledge his representative, of whatever political stripe, to vote in the House and lobby for an agricultural school. Public opinion among the farmers is strongly in favor of such a school, and we consider the time ripe to bring the matter to a head. Little or no attention need be expected from any Government towards the school unless the farmers themselves insist strongly that it be established at an early date. The farmer members of the Agricultural Commission are enthusiastic over such a school, as a result of their recent tour of inspection. As we have stated before, there is a hunger for such training as can only be got at such an institution, and if farmers will only insist on their rights, they will succeed. In this connection we are reminded of the parable of the importunate widow, and to farmers we would say, "Go thou and do likewise."

### Note from a Leading Breeder.

Dear Sirs,—I have the Christmas number of the "Farmer's Advocate," for which I am very much obliged. It is a beautiful number. I think this Christmas issue worth very much more than the subscription price for the whole year. I am sorry for the farmer who does not take the "Advocate," even if he only farms ten acres of poor land. I can truly say that it is invaluable to any farmer who wishes to be informed on any branch of farming. It is truly lamentable that so many farmers still refuse to take any high-class agricultural paper.

ARTHUR JOHNSTON

Greenwood, Ont., Jan. 2nd, 1902

## HORSES.

### The Education of the Horse.

Education is a term seldom used to express the development of the physical and intellectual faculties of the horse. When we hear of an educated horse, it usually suggests the idea of a trick horse or a circus horse. The term break is commonly used; it suggests the idea of conquering or quelling by force, and, unfortunately, this is too often the case. If a horse have vicious habits, as kicking, shying, running away, etc., it would be quite correct to speak of breaking him of those vices; but we can hardly say that a green colt is vicious, as he has had no opportunity of developing the most of the usual forms of vice, although he may be predisposed to them. Therefore, I claim that the term is misapplied, as you cannot break or cure an animal of a vice or habit which he does not possess. However, the term is so commonly used it may be better to continue its use to express the idea that certainly would be more clearly expressed by "education."

A horse is useful in proportion to the extent to which his physical and intellectual powers are developed, or, in other words, to the extent of his ability and education to perform whatever service is required of him. A colt should be handled and educated gradually from the time he is born, but in many cases he is allowed to run almost wild (sometimes not even halter-broken) until he is three or four years old, or until the time arrives that he is required for work, when, without any preparatory training or handling, he is hitched, either singly or with a mate, and expected to go to work at once. This, we claim, is irrational. It pays to take some time and trouble with a colt before asking him to perform the functions of a horse. To properly break or educate a colt, it requires a man of good common sense, one with considerable patience, one who understands horses, and who does not expect to teach the animal everything he should know in an hour or two. The man who undertakes the task should study the individuality of the colt, should use him kindly, if possible, and endeavor to avoid any conflict between his wishes and the will of the colt, but if such should arise, he should be in a position to gain the mastery, even though he has to use harsh means. On general principles, we give the following hints, although in some cases more severe measures may be necessary.

We will suppose we have a three-year-old that is simply halter-broken, and we expect him to go to work in the spring. In the first place, we would like a large box stall, or, failing that, a paddock or yard in which to give him the first few lessons. The first step is to give him a mouth, or, in other words, accustom him to the bit. This is a point that is often sadly neglected or abused; often a bit is put into his mouth for the first time and he is at once hitched, either singly or with a mate, and driven. Not being accustomed to the bit, and not understanding its use, he is apt to either shrink from its pressure or become excited from the pain caused, when he will plunge and bolt and be very hard to control. This makes the mouth sore, and often makes a side-puller or a lougher. The value of a horse, especially the saddle or light-harness horse, depends to a great extent upon his "mouth"—hence the advisability of taking some pains on this point. The better way is to put on a nice light bridle with an ordinary snaffle or straight bit, and allow the colt to wear it an hour or two a couple of times daily, in his stall or paddock, until he becomes accustomed to the bit and no longer fights it; then increased pressure can be put on by attaching reins to it and fastening them to a surcingle. Do this for a few hours each day, gradually tightening the reins until he will steadily yield to the pressure and submit to its restraint. In the meantime it is well to put some harness on to get him used to it. A little more may be added each day, and the straps should be allowed to hang loosely, not low enough to be trodden on, but hanging about his legs in order that he may learn that they will not hurt him. All this takes only a few minutes of the trainer's time each day, and if the lessons be commenced about this time of the year, there will be ample time before spring. Having thus given him a fairly good mouth, and having accustomed him to the harness, it is well to teach him to drive. For this purpose we prefer to teach him singly, with the lines passed through the shaft loops and extending along his sides and thighs, in order to the more readily prevent him turning around, as he can easily do if the lines pass through the terrets. We would drive him without having him hitched to anything. Use as few words as possible, but pronounce the words distinctly. Always use the same word to express the same action. When we say "Whoa," let him know that he is to stand still; when we say "Back," teach him that he is to step backwards, etc. If (as is often the case with those driving both colts and horses) we say "Whoa" when we simply want him to go steady, or