

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S, ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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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, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$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.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the FULL NAME AND POST-OFFICE ADDRESS MUST BE GIVEN.
9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.
10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
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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labor or the cost for the present or immediate future.

Conditions make it impossible for every locality to build stone roads, or even to put on a liberal layer of gravel. Lack of funds and distance from source of supply stand in the way. But there are few districts that cannot make improvements in the general condition of the roads. Ordinary earth roads, if properly made, and kept in good repair, are not objectionable, except for a very few days during the year. If, however, the road allowance never has been graded to form a road-bed proper, instead of a wide, flat tract, on which water lies after every rain, the natural condition is mud for many months and a "black eye" to the community. Thorough grading, followed by rolling and smoothing, and then a judicious use of the split-log drag, overcomes most of the difficulty.

Don't forget that time is money, and that some effort should be made to reduce to a minimum the outlay for harness, horses and carriages. Take steps to have the work connected with road construction and repair, in the hands of a competent superintendent. The result will be a saving of money, a pleasure to those who travel on the roads, and a credit to the community.

Metal surfacing an undrained road is like building a house on quicksand. If a municipality cannot both drain and macadamize, by all means let it do the draining first. There are thousands of dollars invested every year in gravelling and applying crushed stone that would give far better returns, both now and hereafter, if devoted to tile-draining the roads. An underdrained road is fit for any further line of treatment.

There is still time to secure one or two new names for "The Farmer's Advocate," thereby obtaining your own renewal free for six months or a year, as the case may be. If you have already renewed, we have a list of splendid premiums from which a selection may be made that will liberally repay the slight trouble entailed.

Canada's Wheat Future.

Not long ago, in the "smoker" of a west-bound flier, a prosperous-looking individual remarked: "At the rate things are moving out there (his cigar indicated the setting sun), the time may come when we shan't know what to do with our wheat." Noticing that the thought seemed to trouble him not a little, a stranger, unmistakably English, told him not to worry about such a contingency. "Why," said he, "the Old Country can take all your surplus for years to come, and then you can help to feed a hundred millions in the United States; after that, have a turn at the rest of the globe. It will be all right; your land is cheap and fertile, so go ahead as quickly as you like with your No. 1 hard and other brands; it's good stuff." The perplexed one gave a sigh of relief, passed his cigar-case, and said, "Show me." "Well," replied the stranger, the United Kingdom now produces about 55,000,000 bushels per year—enough to keep her two and a half months. To make up the deficit in the national pantry, she had to buy last year 210,000,000. How much do you imagine Canada supplied? About 40,000,000—one-fifth, that's all. Now, what you have got to do is to send her the other four-fifths—send her the whole lot, all she wants. I guess that will keep you hustling (as you say) for a few years. By this time you will be using for home consumption nearly as much as you produce now. Afterwards, when 'mother' can take no more, Uncle Sam will be ready and eager for all he can get. So cheer up, and, as here's my station, so long."

Addresses of Correspondents.

A reader complains that the post-office addresses of our correspondents are not published.

The use of the county, rather than the post-office address in printing communications is a settled policy, adopted by "The Farmer's Advocate," and followed by some of the leading agricultural journals of the United States, as well. One of the objects is to prevent our writers being deluged with an aftermath of personal correspondence; another is to prevent the prostitution of our editorial columns by veiled attempts to secure free advertising. Even when no such attempt is made, there are letters received in the course of discussions which, if published over the writer's name, would unintentionally and in some cases unavoidably have such incidental effect. Our editorial pages are not published for this purpose. Their function is to impart information and stimulate thought. The advertising columns are for the purpose of facilitating business exchange. If a man has something he wants to sell, or if he desires to buy something which some reader or other may have, let him insert an advertisement. In the "Want and For Sale" column announcements may be inserted at the comparatively low price of three cents a word, concerning farm properties, help and situations wanted, pet stock and miscellaneous articles. For live stock, poultry and eggs, and general merchandise, rates will be cheerfully quoted for display advertisements.

For editorial and business reasons, therefore, the names of our correspondents are withheld. It is useless to ask for them. When additional information is wanted, send the inquiries to us, and, if worth while, the replies will appear in print.

If those who leave their fields from three to eight years in meadow, and then crop from two to four years in grain, were to change their practice completely, breaking the sod after one or at most two years in clover, following this with corn, roots, potatoes and peas, and then taking off one crop of cereals, seeding down with this course to clover and timothy, greater quantities of both hay and grain would be reaped, with the hood crop and peas to boot. Short rotation is the ideal.

Acetylene gas is being extensively introduced into Western Australia, as well as other parts of the Antipodean Commonwealth.

HORSES.

System in Horse-breeding.

Why are there so few high-class horses of any breed or class owned by farmers in any section of the Dominion? The question is easily answered by saying, "Want of system in breeding." Visit the farms of any section, and you will find pure-bred cattle at one farm, pure-bred sheep at another, pure-bred swine at another, and, doubtless, pure-bred poultry at many. In fact, at many places there will be found pure-breds of the different classes of stock, except horses. The percentage of farmers who own even one horse that is registered, or eligible to registration, or even one high-class animal of any of the recognized classes, not necessarily pure-bred, will be found to be very low. Why is this? We answer that, in the breeding of all classes but horses the farmer has a system; he has an ideal up to which he is endeavoring to breed. He is endeavoring to improve his herd year by year, not only to keep each generation pure, but to improve the quality and individuality. He has discovered that it pays to be particular; that the better bred and the better the individual, the more money it is worth in the market, whether it be sold for breeding purposes or for food. But, in regard to horses, he has failed to appreciate these facts, not that he is not sufficiently intelligent to appreciate them, but because he has not given them the necessary thought and consideration. He, like his forefathers, apparently regards the horse simply as a means of producing power to perform certain kinds of labor. The other classes of stock are kept and bred with an idea of profit, but the horse simply as a means of performing labor, in order that food, etc., may be produced which makes it possible to sustain the others. He apparently is unmindful of the fact that it costs little more to produce, and no more to keep, a good horse than an inferior one. We think that, if from no other motive than appearance, it would be profitable to pay more attention to his horses. He takes pride in the breeding and quality of his cattle, sheep, swine, and probably poultry, and will be pleased to show these and have them admired; but, when asked about his horses, he will say, "Oh, I don't keep much in the horse line; good horses are too expensive, and I simply keep sufficient of a kind to do my work." Of course, with the man who does not breed horses, but who buys what he needs, we have no reasonable fault to find. We may deplore the fact that he has no tastes or ambitions in that line, but he is at least doing nothing directly to prevent improvement in breeding. We would also say to the man who does not care for the horse, simply sees in him something that is useful for certain purposes, views him as he does a machine, as something that is necessary about a farm, but from some cause conceives the idea that he can be bred at a profit, and decides to experiment. "Don't." A man without any particular liking for any kind of stock may, with more or less success, breed and raise other classes of stock, but the man who makes horse-breeding profitable must be a horseman. He must see in the horse something more than simply a means to an end. There are so many more points to be considered in a horse than in other classes of stock that it requires either special adaptability or special training, or both, to enable a man to have an intelligent idea of what he is endeavoring to produce. For instance, in the other classes, when we get the desirable size, conformation and quality demanded in an animal, we have all that can be produced, but in horses we must have, in addition to these, soundness, style, and the action and speed demanded in the special class or breed they represent. Hence, we claim that only he who really knows what the special horse he is intending to produce should be, can be a successful breeder.

To those who breed horses, we say, "Be systematic." stick to type, abandon the old idea that a horse is simply a horse; that a mare that, either from old age or from disease, is no longer much use for work, is good enough to breed, and that the side-road stallion, whose service fee is a few dollars or less, will produce just as good a colt as one with a long pedigree, and the characteristics of his breed well marked, and for whose services a reasonable fee is demanded.

We will not here discuss the most profitable class or breed of horses for the farmer to breed; that question is frequently discussed. We will simply say that, in our opinion, if a man who has no particular admiration for any class, but decides to commence breeding, he will be wise to breed heavy horses; but if he is essentially a light-horse man, favors the carriage horse, the roadster or the saddle horse, by all means let him breed his favorite class. These are classes that require nature, age, training and manners, in order that their value may be received for them, and the breeder will be able to obtain both pleasure and profit by giving them this training. Whatever class the breeder decides to produce,