

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 and 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, per week. 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, \$1.00 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.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

marketable hay into saleable butter or beef, must have seemed almost like so much clear gain.

But times have changed, and to-day almost every farm product has a cash value. At all events it costs money and time (which is also money) to produce it, and the value even of such unmarketable feeds as silage can be compared with saleable feeds on a ratio relative to their feeding value or cost of production, whichever you choose. The herd, therefore, which is to show a profit must first return the intrinsic value of all feed consumed, roughage as well as concentrates. The dairyman who is content to "throw in" the silage, hay and straw at a merely nominal rate will find himself working for very low summer wages. We must insist upon feeding these products to animals which will, if possible, pay for everything consumed. Putting the question in this light not only eliminates poor cows and three-year-old stockers from the farm, but turns a clear light on the problem of whether or not it pays to buy feed. In order to present this problem in a concrete form we shall submit a leaf from our own recent experience. At Weldwood we keep track of all feed consumed, the meal exactly according to weight, and the bulky feeds approximately, estimated from fairly frequent weighing of silage, hay and straw rations, even the bedding being counted. Just for the satisfaction of it we recently footed up the feed records for the months of November, December and January. Quite a lot of purchased meals were used in these three months, principally for the fattening stock, the bulk of the home-produced spring grain being reserved for cows that were to freshen later. The major items of feed were oil cake 1,400 lbs. at \$33.50 per ton; rolled oats, 755 lbs. at \$22; corn-meal, 1,656 lbs. at \$25; undecorticated cottonseed-meal, 400 lbs. at \$24; unsalable hay, 6 tons at \$8; mixed clover and blue-grass hay, 14 tons at \$10; corn silage, (well cured and with small moisture content,) 27 tons at \$5; roots 10½ tons at \$3; green rape, 4.15 tons at \$3. The summary showed:

4,713 lbs. meal worth.....	\$ 72.84
41,745 lbs. hay, etc., worth	195.86
27 tons of silage worth	135.17
10½ tons roots worth	30.78
4.15 tons rape worth.....	12.45
Total.....	\$447.10

This feed was consumed by nine head of beefing cattle, (mostly cows, four of which were fed for two months only,) milking cows, yearling heifers, calves and a bull, all being equivalent to an average of about 24 head of mature cattle for the full time. This means an average cost per feed of \$18.63 or \$6.31 per mature head per month. "Did the cattle pay for all that feed? To be candid they did not. The increase in the value of the fattening cattle, the growth on the young stock and the milk checks together would not net that value. It is only fair to state, though, that most of the cows were approaching calving date and had previously given their best flow, producing milk at a moderate cost per hundredweight on grass and green feed. Still these figures were striking and promptly stimulated an already formed determination to retain, and if possible, to buy none but the very best stock. Also they suggested another line of thought. If it costs \$6 or \$7 per month to feed a fattening beast may it not pay to use a little more meal, increasing the cost of feeding a dollar or two per month, but also increasing the rate of gain and shortening the feeding period by a couple of weeks? A big point in feed economy is wrapped up here, and it applies to young cattle, cows and other stock as well. We submit these figures for what they suggest, and hope others will be stimulated to figure on their own feed-bills. That way lie some rather disturbing discoveries, but the best hope of profit is beyond.

Look Out for the Book Agent.

An old and esteemed correspondent of "The Farmer's Advocate" writes us a letter of warning for the benefit of readers in other sections, which is another reminder that persons cannot exercise too great caution in the purchase of subscription books on the instalment plan from unknown agents or issued by comparatively unknown publishing houses. Many valuable works have, no doubt, been made accessible to the public in that way, but it will be well within the dear-bought knowledge of people in nearly every community to say that a host of such volumes have been disappointments, costly, trashy, ephemeral, and, in not a few cases, closely bordering on the fake order. Often they are hurried out on the heels of a war, the death of some distinguished personage or other sensational event, and it stands to reason that any work of a biographical or historical nature of any permanent worth is not likely to make its appeal to the public like hot cakes off a griddle. As a rule, it takes time to produce a book really meritorious. In auction rooms and junk shops one can run across old sets for a song, that a few years before were exploited on the public at ridiculous prices, and the last volume often proved inferior to the first and far below the gilt-edged prospectus, which the itinerant salesman carried in his beautifully pebbled leather satchel a few months before. It is an expensive way to dispose of books, and the publishers are bound to recoup themselves in one way or another. Something cheap and unreliable is usually the result. Illustrated volumes, religious works, and encyclopedias, too often fall into this category. Our correspondent calls attention to one of this nature which he states was found full of ridiculous and unreliable statements. Obviously, a work of reference of that description is worse than useless, being positively misleading. If one is within reach of a public library, good encyclopedias can usually be consulted without buying them, and one should not invest in a set without conferring with some one who is an authority, such as an experienced public librarian. Newness does not condemn a book if it is by an author and from a publishing house of repute. Another point to be borne

in mind is to know exactly the meaning of any orders signed, if one has fully satisfied himself with the offered publication and is certain that he is not just being "talked into" something for which he has no need, and which is not to be of real advantage in the home. Sometimes what is supposed to be a simple order turns out to be a promissory note which is turned over to the tender mercies of some bank for collection, by "due process of law," if need be, in addition to which the purchaser may have already been saddled with express charges on the consignment of books.

Limit the Hours.

"I'll come over some evening and we can clean up those seed oats that I'm going to get so as not to stop the teams in the field," said one farmer to another many years ago before the ten-hour-day notion was general among rural workers. "You needn't bother coming in the evening," replied the other, "we don't work here after night; come in the day-time," was the startling response. "And I noticed," said the first party, who told us the incident lately, "that this man was never behind with his work, and financially he was getting ahead. He started with nothing when he came to this country, and to-day he is worth more than many of us who have been plugging through day and night."

It is usually so. Why? Because the man who is plodding through all hours of the day and night is fit neither to work nor plan. Instead of directing the work, the work drives him. Counting on the accustomed long hours, he undertakes too much, fags out and gets behind. The one who limits his work, but is sharp on the job, heats him half a dozen ways in the long race. The temptation to run the day into the night is insidious and mischievous. Resist it. Reserve some time for rest and play; time for observation and planning. As much work will be done, and it will be done to better advantage. Up to a reasonable extent, a farmer can save and make money faster with his eye and brain than he can with his arm. Husband your strength, keep a clear head, and a well-toned arm. Do it by limiting the hours of work. It pays.

By way of further emphasizing the economy of fast-working implements, we are pleased to publish Director J. H. Grisdale's letter, discussing two or three points of a recent editorial on the subject. We fully concur in his main contentions, but are still of opinion that it is exaggeration to state that three horses on a two-furrow plow can do twice as much plowing as two horses on a single walking plow. We have known two horses on a single walking plow to turn over three acres of fairly heavy clay land between dawn and dusk. Could three horses on a two-furrow plow turn six? There are few cases in which four of them could do it. As for finish at headlands and dead furrows, we have not denied that this could be accomplished with the big plow, but it is rarely or never done quite so neatly as is possible for a good plowman with a walking plow, and the starting-and-finish line is more ragged because both shares do not take hold or clear at the same relative point. The two-furrow plow is a decided success nevertheless.

Plant more trees, is the refrain of every gale that blows across the country.

A man with a well-grown double or even a single row of evergreens about his homestead, is likely to rest easier than he would without them, when the winds begin to howl.

There has been solid satisfaction, during the March storms, to many a man as he looked along the lines of sturdy maples which he planted as slender saplings a few years ago, and in a few weeks they will become again an annual thing of beauty.