

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED), LONDON, ONT., and WINNIPEG, MAN.

JOHN WELD, Manager. F. W. HODSON, Editor.

The Farmer's Advocate is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

Terms of Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscription, 6s. or \$1.50. New subscriptions can commence with any month.

Advertising Rates—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

Discontinuances—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrearsages must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.

The Advocate is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearsages must be made as required by law.

The Law is, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearsages are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

Remittances should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.

The Date on your Label shows to what time your subscription is paid.

Subscribers failing to receive their paper promptly and regularly will confer a favor by reporting the fact at once.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or THE WILLIAM WELD CO., LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

CONTENTS.

- EDITORIAL:—
- 141—Illustration, 142 and 143—Editorial Notes; Messrs. Robt. Bell & Co.'s Stud Hackneys; Report of the Experts on Live Stock for the Chicago Exposition. 143—Poland China. 144—An Act to Further Amend the Pharmacy Act; Ontario Veterinary College; Building with Concrete—Errata; Questions Asked and Answered.
- STOCK:—
- 144—Leaner Swine Wanted; Value of Malt Sprouts. 145—Chatty Letter from the States; Ayrshires and Their Uses; Sheep Notes.
- FARM:—
- 146—Forestry; Weeds. 147—Different Varieties of Red Clover; Feed Your Land.
- GARDEN AND ORCHARD:—
- 147—Spring Time in the Orchard. 148—Co-operative Experiments in Horticulture; The Farmer's Garden; Pruning Currants.
- LEGAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—148.
- ENTOMOLOGY:—
- 149—Injurious Insects.
- POULTRY:—
- 149—Poultry on the Farm; Poultry Notes.
- APIARY:—
- 149—The Apiary.
- DAIRY:—
- 150—Why the Dairy Farmer Should Feed Well; The Economical Production of Butter; Dairy Question; The Report of Mt. Elgin Winter Creamery for 1892 to 1893. 151—A Dairy Question.
- VETERINARY:—
- 151—Micro-Organisms in Health; Veterinary Questions.
- MISCELLANEOUS:—
- 145—Manuring Orchards.
- FAMILY CIRCLE:—152.
- QUIET HOUR:—152.
- MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT:—153.
- UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT:—154.
- STOCK GOSSIP:—156 and 158.
- NOTICES:—157.
- ADVERTISEMENTS:—155 to 160.

Manuring Orchards.

BY JOHN CRAIG, HORTICULTURIST, CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM

The question is often asked, Would you manure just around the tree, or the whole surface of the ground? The most approved practice is to manure the whole surface of the ground. It has been found that potash is one of the constituents that our fruit trees draw most heavily from the soil, and we must, therefore, in order to keep the balance even, return this to the soil in larger quantities than other fertilizers. The most convenient and cheapest way of applying this element is in the form of wood ashes, in a bushel of which there are about three pounds of potash, worth 4 cents per pound, or 12 cents for the bushel. Then we have about one pound of phosphoric acid, worth 4 cents, which will give us a total of 16 cents for these two constituents alone. Both of these are very valuable agents for orchard use. Besides these, in wood ashes are lime, magnesia and iron, also important fertilizers. This makes a very valuable and almost complete fertilizer for orchards; but in addition, we need nitrogen, and this can be supplied by a dressing of barnyard manure every second year. That gives a complete fertilizer for the orchard.

A good artificial fertilizer, according to Prof. James, for an acre of ground, would be as follows:—Wood ashes, forty bushels; crushed bones, to give phosphoric acid, 100 pounds; and sulphate of ammonia, to give us the nitrogen, 100 pounds. This would cost about \$8.50 an acre, and be a very complete fertilizer indeed. I would not advise that this should be used at once, but spread over the first part of the growing season in two or three applications.

Chatty Letter from the States.

(From our Chicago Correspondent.)

Some good people over here are inclined to take exception to what Messrs. Wm. Davies & Co. said about Canadian pork being far superior to States grown pork. The facts seem to be largely with Messrs. Davies. However, April started in with a \$2 lurch in hog prices from the top of the season; but reaction took place, and a well-known hog dealer said: "Hogs are hogs again, and packers will consider them cheap at \$7 before the month is out; farmers have gotten over the panicky time and are now 'standing pat' for higher prices, which have to come, especially if supply and demand have anything to do with the course of values. Receipts for the next six or eight months will be very light, and before the end of next August prices will go very high." The above words had not been uttered forty-eight hours when hogs were again selling at \$7.00 @ \$7.50. Prices bounded upward 75c. in three days' time.

Receipts of cattle thus far this year exhibit 75,000 decrease compared with a year ago, and 27,900 increase compared with two years ago. Receipts of hogs thus far this year have decreased nearly 1,000,000 compared with a year ago, and nearly 1,500,000 compared with two years ago. Sheep increased 149,400 compared with a year ago, and 63,000 compared with two years ago.

Forty-five head of 1,166 @ 1,321-lb. feeding cattle sold to an Ohio man at \$1.75 @ \$1.90, the highest feeders have sold for here in over two years. The country seems to have considerable confidence in the future market for fat cattle. Good beef makers realize that to make really prime heaves on high-priced land it is better to buy cattle that have breeding and considerable flesh to start with. There is a very good prospect for the market for desirable fat cattle. Winter-fed Texas cattle will soon be all in. Grass Texas cattle promise to be very good, if the ranges get a little rain soon. The weather is too dry over large areas. Cattle dealers report a very weak demand for meats in eastern markets. Cattle prices are \$1.50 higher than a year ago. The marketing of calves goes merrily on. The demand for veal has been very great. There are fewer thick, fat, heavy cattle marketed than there used to be. The improvement in the best cattle market is already having an appreciable effect upon the demand for well-bred cattle. Away with the scrubs. A prominent Illinois Hereford cattle breeder says there is more inquiry for choice young breeding cattle than there has been before in five years. Buyers do not want to pay liberal prices, but they are willing to try to trade.

While farmers are so rushed with spring work, an advance in hog prices is more likely to check than to augment the marketing of hogs.

Sheep are good property, and are making money for feeders. The high price of pork stimulates the demand for mutton.

Ayrshires and Their Uses.

[A paper read before the Ayrshire Breeders' Association by Mr. O. Nichol.]

Ayrshires have been an established breed for over one hundred years, and although they have never been boomed by speculators, as is the case with other breeds, their reputation for usefulness has now become fairly well known. The demand for Ayrshires at present is far in excess of what it has ever been. No doubt this is chiefly because the milk of the Ayrshires, being rich in cream, is peculiarly adapted for the production of cheese, which is a leading branch of our agricultural industries.

Fortunate it was for this country and people that dairymen's associations were formed at a time when agricultural pursuits had become depressed, and much of the land has been impoverished by continuous overcropping; and the scarcity and high price of skilled labor, along with the low price of many farm products, has made grain farming less profitable. A revolution in farming operations had become actually necessary, and now the great majority of Ontario farmers are devoting special attention to the manufacture of first-class cheese, the demand for which seems to be almost unlimited, while at the same time the land is resting and gaining in fertility.

The selling of milk in towns and cities has developed into an enormous business, and for this purpose the Ayrshires seem to be particularly well suited, because they give milk which gives general satisfaction to consumers. Analysts and physicians pronounce it nearly a complete food for children, invalids and aged persons; hence the ever-increasing demand for it. As regards the butter made from the milk of Ayrshires, I find a demand for much more than I can supply at 25c. per pound. When the travelling dairy was operating in our locality last fall, the milk of our cow Virginia showed by their Babcock test five and a-half per cent. butter fat. She was then giving 48 lbs. per day.

I heard a dairyman say he would like to procure a breed of cows which would produce a large quantity of rich milk on a small quantity of poor food. We have now about a dozen different breeds of dairy cattle, each breed celebrated for some peculiarity, and all having their admirers. It is, however, hardly probable we shall ever possess a breed which will in itself have all the good qualities and peculiar advantages which this individual desired.

When in Shropshire, England, a few years ago, I was told by a large estate overseer, noted for wisdom and for extensive experience with the different breeds of dairy cattle, that in point of economy he had found none equal to the West Highlanders. Another

dairyman said he could get more quarts of good milk out of a ton of hay fed to the little Kerry cows than with any other breed.

I was not prepared to gainsay their statements, but I do know that in the Ayrshires we have a compactly built, industrious, hardy, economical business cow, which has the faculty of assimilating her food and converting it into good milk, and that in the milk pail she shows how readily she responds to the liberal treatment.

I also know that in some breeds, and even among the common cows of the country, there are to be found phenomenal animals which can be crammed to produce immensely, but at the same time a large proportion of them are poor producers. For we must remember that the accomplishments of a few extraordinary cows of any breed does not by any means decide the superiority of the whole.

One of the chief characteristics of the Ayrshire breed is that they are more uniform in productiveness, and that there are fewer culls or scrubs among them than is generally found among other breeds of dairy cattle; and I doubt whether there is any breed better adapted to the needs of the dairymen of Ontario.

Although we have gained a reputation for producing cheese of the very best quality, there is still much room for improvement in the butter industry. I believe there is more fine butter made now than formerly, yet there is a great deal produced which is not so good as it might be. No doubt much of the offensively odoriferous trash is made from cream kept too long without regard to temperature, but a great deal of it results from the want of cleanliness in the manipulation of the milk from which butter is made.

We seldom hear of witches now, yet some allege they are not altogether extinct, and that there is still a mystical virtue in the horseshoe. Before dairy thermometers were much in use, I was once called upon to help a neighbor at churning. The husband and wife had been taking turn about at the dash churn all forenoon, and had come to the conclusion that the cream was bewitched. After dinner I worked at it more than an hour, but could not keep the frothy stuff from overflowing; then it became a question whether I also was not bewitched. A red-hot horseshoe was dropped into the churn, and after a few minutes' agitation the butter came. Perhaps some warm water would have answered the purpose fully as well, but I have no doubt that while that man and woman lived they believed the horseshoe drove the devil out of the churn. In several farming houses I have seen a horseshoe hanging over the kitchen door, but only in one instance have I seen that of a mule or an ass placed in such position.

I heard a person enquiring in Kingston market for servant's butter; he said it lasted longer than the finely flavored delicacy. And I could tell you of a gentleman who procured a tub of butter for family use, which soon became so rancid that even the servants would not eat it.

A generous-hearted farmer in an adjoining county, having heard of the advantages to be derived from the use of the thermometer, brought home to his wife one of the best make. She put it into the churn along with the cream, set away for the night, removed it in the morning, churned as usual, and said she did not see that it made much difference.

The travelling dairy delegation last fall in our locality imparted much valuable information to an appreciative audience; strange, however, many more might have been greatly benefitted who did not avail themselves of the opportunity freely offered on that occasion. It may well be said, "There are none so blind as they who will not see."

I have seen butter being made by persons of untidy appearance—others having seen the like stopped eating butter; and I know of some on whom the very sight of butter acted somewhat like an emetic; consequently, there is not nearly so much consumed as there would be, were our reputation for cleanliness above suspicion.

I have good hope in the rising generation, because I think the time is probably not far distant when this useful art will be taught in every common school throughout the country.

We have much absurd talk about the drudgery of dairy work; for my own part I cannot think of any occupation in which a woman could be engaged than in making delicious butter. Moreover, the healthiest, happiest and prettiest women I have ever seen were dairymaids.

It is encouraging to notice that women are now invited to the dairy school in connection with the Ontario Agricultural College. A good sign of progress will be when many farmers' daughters are taking a short course at that institution. Wise young farmers will marry educated dairymaids; superstition will be dispelled, and our character for butter-making will be exalted, enabling us to compete favorably in the best butter markets.

Sheep Notes.

G. C. of Wapella, writes us that he is well pleased with the ADVOCATE, and was much interested in the articles recently published on Sheep Raising; but he takes exception to the theory advanced by "Practical," in March 6th issue, of raising three and four lambs from each ewe by careful selection and mating. G. C. claims considerable experience in sheep raising, both in Scotland and Ontario, and in United States, and says he never knew of a flock having more than fifty per cent. of twins or five per cent. of triplets; and even if they had more, they could not furnish milk for more than two lambs each.