

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.
 2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, headedly 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.
 3. 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.
 4. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agents. Contract rates furnished on application.
 5. 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.
 6. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
 7. 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.
 8. THE DATE OF YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
 9. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must be Given."
 10. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.
 11. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
 12. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
 13. 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.
 14. 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.

of it the main purpose of stock husbandry as compared with selling crops for cash is to conserve and build up fertility. Disregard that and you can make out a strong case for selling grain, hay and straw. Few farmers now go the length of selling the straw off their farms. They use it up at home for the sake of the land. But if it pays to use the straw at home for the express purpose of soil enrichment, why not also the hay and grain? And if it pays to feed home-grown grain for the sake of the manure pile instead of selling for cash, may it not in some cases, pay to buy grain, partly for the same purpose, providing the farmer's financial position warrants laying out some money for the sake of future returns? We do not pretend that the argument for keeping hay and grain at home is quite so strong as the argument for using up the straw, nor that it is always so wise to buy grain as to feed what has been produced at home, but a common principle underlies it all, varying only in a degree.

The editors of *Hoard's Dairyman* say in a recent issue:

"A farmer once saw us spreading phosphate on an alfalfa field. 'How long do you have to wait before you get anything back from that stuff?' he asked. 'Well, in two or three years,' was our reply. 'That's too long for me,' was his answer. Then we asked him how long he had to wait for returns when he planted an apple tree, raised a colt or a calf? 'Oh, that's another thing,' he remarked. Yes, it was another thing, another place to exercise the same old faith which says, 'Except ye sow, ye shall not reap.'"

The things that pay best are sometimes the things from which we have to wait longest for returns. It pays to invest judiciously for the future up to the limit of prudence as justified by one's means. When clear realization of these principles governs men's practice they are in a position to act wisely. When, for example, a

farmer knows that his manure pile represents part of the money paid out last winter for feed, will he be likely to let it waste and fire-fang in the barnyard till mid-summer? In our observation he will not.

Ready-to-Wear Opinions.

Some peculiar views are held as to the scope and function of an independent paper in the discussion of public affairs. We are often reminded of the anecdote about a writer who asked his managing editor what line he should take on a certain question. "Oh, be careful, you don't offend either political party. You know ours is an independent paper." Such a paper is independent of nobody. It is less independent than the most bitter party organ, for that, at least, is independent of the opposite side. Under a party system of government every important public issue is bound to become, sooner or later, a party question. Otherwise, politics would descend to the level of mere bickering and wittingly between those who are in power and those who want to be. There is enough of that as it is, but without some big dividing issues there would be nothing else. It would be a mere corrupt scramble for power. It is idle, therefore, to talk about keeping big questions out of politics.

A disheartening fact, however, is the blind, unreasoning loyalty with which men and women on both sides will follow the lead of their party newspapers, instead of heeding the attitude of really independent publications, or even of the less bitter party organs. Let any issue develop, and most of the voters will be all at sea about it until their favorite newspaper has declared its stand. After that nine out of ten will know exactly where they are at. They will follow the party lead, whatever it may be, never guessing that the cue had been given by some astute political manager—possibly a man behind the scenes whom the public hear little about. He may be utterly unprincipled, yet his reputation as a strategist establishes him successfully as a party mentor, and enables him virtually to manufacture ready-to-wear opinions for half the population of a country. Some day the absurdity of such a situation will render it no longer possible.

Meantime, hope of better government lies in more true independence of thought and action, both within and without the established parties. Independence within them is good, often helping to shape the policies adopted in caucus. Independence without also helps to determine these, and finally decides between them. Partisans neutralize each other's votes. The genuine, incorruptible, independent element is the one that statesmen have to cater to. This element, though small, is the salt of the national citizenship.

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Under the new administration there is to be no diminution in the activities of the United States Department of Agriculture, judging by appropriations and enlargement of powers and duties. The amount provided by Act of Congress for the year ending June 30th, 1914, amount to \$17,986,945 an increase of \$1,335,449 over the present year. Prof. W. M. Hays, who has served as assistant secretary since 1904 retires, and has been succeeded by Dr. B. T. Galloway, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, connected with this department for 25 years. One little item in contingent expenses is for an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for an oil painting of Hon. James Wilson former Secretary of Agriculture; and at a farewell function attended by some 1,500 employees and families a portrait bust was unveiled, the original bronze being given Mr. Wilson. In one of the addresses reference was made to the fact that when Mr. Wilson assumed office 2,500 workers were engaged by the Department, while now there are some 14,000.

As indicating new directions of departmental effort, President Wilson recently announced the appointment of a strong commission of seven members to co-operate with the Southern Commercial Congress in the study now being conducted in Europe of Co-operative Credit. Seed inspection is to be extended and there is an increase of \$75,000 for farm management and demonstration work, also liberal allowances for

combating hog cholera and the gipsy moth campaign. A thorough-going investigation into marketing systems is to be prosecuted and \$2,500 is to be expended for experiments in breeding and feeding ostriches.—The Bureau of Animal Industry receives the largest increase, viz., \$360,880 or a total of \$2,031,196 for the year. The horticultural work of the Bureau of Plant Industry is being re-organized and a new section established including work with truck crops, potatoes, sugar-beet seed and studies in landscape and vegetable gardening, floriculture and kindred subjects. Under the Bureau of Entomology several new lines of work will be developed, including fresh studies of fumigation practices. The Office of Public Roads is increased from \$202,120 to \$279,400, of which \$15,000 is available for advice and enquiries on road management, and \$50,000 for studies in road materials, construction and maintenance.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

There is a little yellow bird which is very much in evidence just now in the garden and in the orchards, flitting in and out among the branches like a little flash of sunshine. It is the Yellow Warbler, often mis-called the "wild canary." The name "wild canary," if it can be applied to any of our birds, really belongs to the American Goldfinch, as this bird is somewhat closely allied to the canary. But the yellow warbler belongs to a totally different family. Its song does not even faintly resemble that of the canary, and the only point of similarity between the Yellow Warbler and the Canary is that both are yellow.

The Yellow Warbler builds a compact little nest in a low shrub or bush, and in it are deposited from four to five white eggs spotted with reddish-brown.

The song of this species is, like its coloration, very bright and cheerful. It may be put into syllables, as "Sweet-sweet-sweet-sweet-che-o-reet," but in this case as in the case of most bird songs, different ears hear different syllables in them. To John Burroughs the Oven-bird says "teacher-teacher-teacher," but no Oven-bird ever said this to me. It says "cher-wack-cher-wack-cher-wack" to me. Yet John Burroughs is a great observer, and I have heard a good many thousand Oven-birds sing. Then take the case of the beautiful refrain of the White-throated Sparrow, to some it sounds like "Old-Tom-Peabody-Peabody-Peabody," to others like "Sow-Wheat-Peverly-Peverly-Peverly," and others again declare it sings "Sweet-Sweet-Canada-Canada-Canada." So "Yer pays yer money and yer takes yer choice." But it is worthy of note that in the case of the White-throated Sparrow the number of syllables is the same no matter which version you take.

Another common bird of the garden is the Chipping Sparrow, the little brownish bird with a gray breast and a bright chestnut crown. Its song is rather a high trill. It is a very valuable neighbor as it eats a lot of insects and also quantities of weed-seed, and at the same time does no harm to the garden produce.

The Chipping sparrow builds its hair-lined nest by preference in a tangle of vines.

How often when in the woods do you hear a rustle of the dead leaves which carpet the forest-floor: you may perhaps catch a flash of brown; but keep perfectly still and you may be rewarded by the sight of one of the daintiest little creatures you ever set eyes on. For most of the rustling is caused by the movements of the little Deer Mouse as it darts about from one place of concealment to another. The Deer Mouse is a light fawn color above, white beneath, with a long slender nose and a long slender tail. It is largely nocturnal in its habits, though it is more or less active at all hours of the day.

There are in our Canadian woods a great host of plants commonly termed Mushrooms or Toadstools. A question perhaps more frequently asked of the botanist than any other question is "What is the difference between a mushroom and a toadstool?" and the answer is "There is none." A Mushroom is usually supposed to be edible and a Toadstool poisonous, yet many of the brightest-colored, most "deadly-looking" species are not only entirely harmless, but are very good eating. At the same time some of the species which look perfectly safe, judged by popular standards, are extremely deadly, and there is no test which can be generally applied to separate the edible forms from the poisonous ones. One erroneous idea is that any species in which the "cap" is pink beneath is good to eat; another misconception is that all poisonous species will blacken a silver spoon. As a matter of fact the only safe guide is to identify each species and look up its record. And one might well ask how the edibility of the various species has been determined. It has been done in this