

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor

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Published in the Dominion.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

Our Prize Essays.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on "The Management of Colts during the Fall and Winter." To be in this office by the 15th of November.

Competitors must write on one side of the paper only. The essay receiving the prize is to be the property of this journal. Unsuccessful essays will be returned on request by sending stamps for return postage.

All fodder, corn, &c., should be cut before it becomes at all frosted, but in case it does become frosted before cut, do not leave it out to be rained upon.

Cattle that are being fed for market should never be worried in any way, and should not be subject to an over amount of labor in obtaining their food, or their beef will become tough and dry, like that of the ox, having a large amount of muscular development.

For the destruction of the pea weevil an exchange recommends the following:—Obtain a tight cask and fill with peas as soon as harvested. Place a saucer of bi-sulphite of carbon on the top of the grain; cover the barrel with a top. All the insects will be dead in three or four hours. Do not bring a light near, as the bi-sulphite is of a combustible nature.

Dear Friends,—We have had so many applications for extra copies from our subscribers who wish to increase our circulation, that we have determined to send extra copies of our October number to all who may apply, and to many others in different parts of the Dominion. We shall consider it a favor if you will show this extra copy to leading farmers and others whom you think should take the paper and are not yet subscribers. Your assistance and recommendation will aid us to increase the utility of the work to be done by this journal.

Yours respectfully,

W WELD.

The Month.

The present fall has been already marked with more large fairs and a general higher class of exhibits through the country than that of any similar time in the history of the Dominion. Many of these shows were highly successful.

From reports it appears that in central Ontario the wheat crop has been light; in the extreme ends the crop has been fully an average one. The hay, coarse grains, fruit and roots are reported, with a few exceptions, above the average.

The reports from Quebec are very similar to those from Ontario.

In the Maritime Provinces and Prince Edward's Island the harvest has been one of the most abundant ever gathered there. The area of wheat was much larger than of late years, and the yield very superior. The potato crop was also most abundant.

Apples should be gathered as soon as they show an indication of dropping, or will come readily from the tree when pulled. Great care should be taken in sorting and packing.

Mangolds must be taken in before they become touched with the frost. It is more profitable and pleasant to harvest all roots before the cold fall rains and frosts set in.

Buildings for farm animals should now be made comfortable, and the stock should occupy them when it is cold and stormy.

Farm implements should now be stowed away under cover. Put each in its own special place; where needed, paint or varnish the wood work. A varnish of two-thirds resin and one-third mutton tallow is excellent for protecting iron or steel.

Live stock should be well fed now, that they may begin winter in high condition.

Many waste products may be utilized. Feed the root tops, but not in large quantities at one time. Do not let your stock have free recourse to these, especially your sheep. Force your fattening stock along; they will put on flesh much more rapidly now with the same feed than in the cold weather. Do not commence winter with more stock than you have feed to carry through and keep in good condition, but keep as many as you can feed well; the more you feed the better will be your crops, if you manage properly.

Before marketing your grain be sure and clean it well; it is more profitable to feed the tailings to your stock than to market them with your grain.

See to the Bulbs.

Toward the end of September and during October is the proper season for planting hardy bulbs, such as crocus, hyacinths, tulips, crown imperial, narcissus and lilies. The earlier they are planted, the more time they have to make roots, and this insures a strong and early bloom the next season. When the planting is left until November, the frost soon penetrates the ground, and root-growing is suspended until spring, and they will not bloom until they have made a certain amount of root-growth. All garden bulbs require a good rich garden soil, but crude manure should never be allowed to come in contact with bulbs, as it is always injurious to them. It is not necessary to take up bulbs every season and replant them; they are really the better for being allowed to remain in the ground for two or three years. Lilies may remain for even four or five years.

In consequence of the severe winters it is not possible to leave Gladioli buds in the ground throughout the season, in this latitude, and they should be taken up and stored away. To do this take hold of the top of the plant to be lifted with one hand and with the other lift it out of the ground and shake off the adhering soil. If desired the variety should now be labeled. Care should be taken not to injure or break off the stalks above the bulbs. The plants thus taken up are spread out in a shed protected from rain or sun, and left until the tops are sufficiently dry. Then, taking care not to break the stalks, make them up into loose bundles, and hang them up in a cellar free from frost. Here they may be left undisturbed till about a week before planting in the spring, when the tops are cut away, the bulbs cleared of corns and roots, and separated. After a few days of rest the fresh breaks will be healed and the bulbs may be planted, each one being surrounded by a little clean sand.

Mr. John Snow, who with his father and sons, has been a butcher in Edinburgh for over 60 years, says:—Canadian farmers should send to Great Britain 3-year-old fatted animals, weighing from 1,350 to 1,450 lbs. (live weight), and yearling sheep that will weigh from 70 to 80 lbs. (dressed). These should be well fatted, with plenty of lean meat in the carcass, nicely covered with fat. He says our sheep are generally fat enough, but have a great lack of lean meat. He condemns the Leicester and Cotswold breeds, and says no first-class English butcher would have either, as they are too coarse in the grain, carry too much fat and too little lean meat. He thinks the breeds best suited to our use are Oxford, Shropshire, and South-down, in the order they are given, and recommends farmers to improve their stock by using the best pure-bred males. Where single farmers cannot afford this several should club together and own the animal jointly. Mr. Hall, who sells the largest number of Canadian cattle of any man in England, in his evidence before the Agricultural Commission, agrees with most of the above, but prefers the Shropshire to the Oxford as a mutton sheep for the English market, and urges upon the farmers the great necessity of high feeding and forcing their animals to early maturity. He discourages sending rams to England, but says the more good wethers the better. These gentlemen speak highly of Shorthorns and Angus Polls, but under no circumstances should grade males be used for stock purposes. Among the hogs, Mr. Hall gave preference to the middle-bred Yorkshire and the Berkshire; thought the best quality of pork was obtained from the Berkshires; did not think they grew as fast as the Yorkshire.