

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Renewing Time.

More new subscribers have been added to the "Farmer's Advocate" lists during the past season than in any previous year in its history. For this we are truly grateful. In large measure this splendid increase is due to the loyalty of our old readers. We also accept it as an appreciation of promises fulfilled in respect to improvements in the paper, of its increased size and the practical value of its contents. We act on the conviction that what is needed and desired is a paper of FIRST RANK for agriculturists and stock breeders. This is our policy for 1903, the prelude to which will be the beautiful CHRISTMAS ISSUE now in preparation. We look with confidence, therefore, to all our present subscribers to sustain us in this great undertaking by a PROMPT RENEWAL. Look up the address label on your paper, showing the date to which your subscription is paid. Every year the burden of our office work increases, and it will be a boon to receive your renewal now. We respectfully urge every reader to give this important matter immediate attention.

If possible, send us also the name of at least one new subscriber for 1903. Judging from the letters continually pouring in, the "Advocate" was never as popular with its subscribers as it is to-day. All points considered, they contend that at \$1.00 per annum it is the cheapest paper available.

Another Great Railway.

Announcement is made that the Grand Trunk Railway will build another transcontinental line from North Bay or Gravenhurst through New Ontario, Manitoba and the northern part of the Northwest Territories and the Peace River country to the British Columbia coast, 600 miles north of Vancouver.

The Farmer and Science.

That a misconception of the term science in its application to agriculture exists in the minds of many farmers cannot be denied. It is not uncommon to hear men of seeming intelligence give expression to their views, and in tones of irony make reference to "the scientific." To them it appears to convey the idea of speculation, mystery and unfitness for association with anything of a real practical character. They appear to think that facts not already in their possession are unworthy of acquisition. They have it all, and the man who comes forward as the advocate of new methods based upon the results of scientific research, they discredit.

In looking over the past, this is not altogether to be wondered at. Instances are not wanting where the scientist has proclaimed the results of his investigations that later discoveries proved to be untrue. This has occurred principally where men have prematurely undertaken to win fame, or have been over-anxious to enlighten the world on some subject of vital importance, and have arrived at what seemed to them a conclusion before, in reality, the enquiry had rightly begun. Another type to be found a quarter century or more ago was the scientist who, untiring in his efforts to benefit his fellow-man, particularly the tiller of the soil, lost no opportunity to give advice concerning farming, which, owing to his ignorance of farm life, was often unfitted for practical application. Fortunately, such are largely of the past.

Although the scientist has occasionally shown evidence of knowing too little about his science, he has, nevertheless, done great things for the farmer. In the ranks of those who gave their time and attention to this branch, have been men of rare intellectual ability, whose works will ever remain as living monuments to commemorate their name. Hand in hand with the advances which they made in biology, chemistry, bacteriology, entomology and various other subjects have gone the improvement of man's primitive calling—agriculture—until, happily, a brighter era has dawned. The farmer is beginning to know more about his farm, and to see that the scientist is his best friend, rather than one to be scorned; he discerns that, after all, science is nothing more than knowledge systematized; an association of facts so arranged as to be understood. To our universities and colleges, through the good work which they are doing, and the practical men that are leaving their halls, is due much credit for having created this better understanding. Intelligent and successful farmers everywhere now believe there is something to be learned about the cultivation of the soil, the liberation of plant food, the changes that take place during growth, the habits of insects, and a score of other questions equally significant that are ever under the survey of science.

We must look for great advances in future. Agriculture cannot afford to be deprived of the assistance to be gained from her powerful "handmaid," science. Nor will she. The farmer of the future, even more than of the present, will be a believer that those who think will lead. He will never lose sight of the fact that the real object of all industry must be the support of life. As the soil is stirred, the seed sown and plants produced, it will be done more intelligently than in the past. The one who is never ready to profit by the experience and advice of others will be obliged to give place to him who continues ever to study, believing that in all things a great Hand ruleth, and that science is only man's effort to accumulate and arrange those facts which explain nature's laws and assist in the performance of all that is highest and best in life. To put it in another way: In the growth of crops and animals, nature has certain ways of working. (It is not luck or chance.) To farm successfully, we must work in harmony with these ways, or laws. By experience and study, we get acquainted with them. To fight weeds or insects best, we must know their nature and habits; to grow continually good crops, we must understand

how to keep up the productiveness of the soil; or to keep animals doing well, must feed and care for them according to the laws of their bodies. All this knowledge is simply science, and the better a farmer knows it in reality, the more scientifically will he farm, though he may not call it by that high-sounding name.

Pointers.

Do not forget the winter fair.

In this issue, for the first time, "Caleb Jenkins" begins to turn his search-light on the agricultural situation at Jenkins Corners.

Some things are neither useful nor ornamental. The Christmas "Farmer's Advocate" will be both and more. Do not miss it.

Read carefully the letter by Mr. John Campbell in this issue, in favor of free rural mail delivery.

Three ways of getting free rural mail delivery: 1st, write your local M.P.; 2nd, write the Postmaster General, Ottawa; and 3rd, write the "Farmer's Advocate," asking for it.

Mr. J. S. Larke, Commercial Agent of the Canadian Government in Australia, in his letter which we publish elsewhere, sheds a flood of light upon the opportunities and conditions for Canadian trade there, and points out the need for Canadian pure-bred stock to improve the herds and studs of the Commonwealth. Shall we rise to the occasion?

We take it that the highest and most practical achievement in pure-bred stock breeding is the production of prepotent males of the first class.

A few issues ago we referred to a letter sent us from a St. Louis concern, urging speculation in "November corn" as a money-making proposition. We warned our readers against all such schemes. A few days ago a Toronto butcher cut his own throat, ruined by stock gambling, and in his pocket was found a telegram about his investment in 3,000 bushels of November corn from the very people who sent us the circular letter.

Standard of Judging.

Mr. W. A. McKinnon, Chief of the Fruit Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, in a letter from England, regarding British agricultural shows, says: "Particular enquiries about the standards adopted in judging stock at these shows failed to elicit a definite statement on this point. In fact, the officials themselves were not any too clear as to what is or ought to be the standard. They appear to have fallen into the easy error of looking on the prize itself as being the end and goal of the exhibitor's ambition. On pressing the matter somewhat closely, certain officials admitted that too little attention was paid to either the educational value of the show or the cash result to the farmers at large.

"In the catalogue and prize lists, judges are warned not to be influenced by the market value of stock in making their awards, and a high official stated that in his opinion too little attention was paid to the economic value of the exhibits, and that farmers are sometimes misled by awards so as to produce an article which is not remunerative.

"Educational meetings are all but unknown. At Carlisle there were demonstrations of dairying processes, but no word of explanation seemed to be given. Guelph leads them all for active, energetic, intelligent education, for in Britain the farmer seems to be considered highly honored in being allowed to exhibit, and they let him pick up some crumbs of information if he can."

The estimated shipments of celery from California for 1901-02 are put by commercial authorities at 1,200 carloads, against 1,100 carloads in 1900-01, and 700 carloads in 1899-1900.