

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday.
It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, 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, apace. Contract rates furnished on application.
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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.

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regard to weed eradication. A third, or, should we say, a fourth, advantage of the corn crop is its special adaptability for utilizing the decaying mold of an inverted sod, leaving the land in excellent tilth for a succeeding crop of grain. And one of the strongest advantages of all is that, of all crops, excepting, perhaps, only alfalfa, it produces about the greatest yield of cattle feed, not the least important feature of which is that it may by use of the silo, be preserved in first-class condition as succulent winter feed, while a surplus may, with no depreciation to speak of, be carried over for midsummer, or even for a second winter's feeding. Especially where alfalfa and clover are largely grown should corn be extensively planted, for the legumes supply an excess of protein to balance up the deficiency in the corn, and the two together provide an immense quantity of first-class economical rations, which lay the basis for profitable cattle-feeding. It is time for Canadian farmers to cease toying with this giant grass, and get to work to raise corn in earnest. This is a good season to commence.

Make Your Own Rod.

"On Thursday evening, shortly before eight o'clock, lightning struck the large barn on the Fallon farm, lot 16, con. 4, Ops, and in a remarkably short time the building was a mass of flames. The farm and buildings are the property of Owen Traynor, and the burned structure contained a large quantity of seed grain, a threshing machine, and some hay. There was some insurance on the barn, but the contents are a total loss."

The foregoing paragraph, doubtless typical of hundreds that will be read in the newspapers this summer, is taken from a daily of recent date, which gave in the same column three similar accounts. Many a tragedy is thus disposed of, not only often entailing the sacrifice of many years' savings, but not infrequently of human or animal life.

The case is all the more pathetic when it is realized that the great majority, if not all, of these disasters, caused by the violent electrical

discharge, might be avoided for a few dollars' expense. Any farmer of ordinary intelligence, by following the instructions so often given through "The Farmer's Advocate," and repeated again last week, can make for himself out of nine strands of number nine soft, galvanized wire, as good a lightning-rod as any he can buy, and a better rod than many claimed by interested parties to be equal or superior. It is now clearly established and recognized by experts who have investigated the subject, that good lightning-rods, properly put up and properly grounded, are a very efficient, if not actually a perfect means of lightning protection to the buildings on which they are placed, their virtue consisting in that they provide a medium for leading the current harmlessly downward to the moist earth. Statistics prove that very seldom, indeed, is a building damaged which is properly rodged, with the wires and all connections in good repair. Telephone companies protect their posts by placing lightning-rods at intervals between the horizontal telephone wires and the ground. In fact, the efficacy of lightning-rods is no longer open to intelligent debate.

The renewed emphasis upon the value of this form of protection is leading to renewal of the lightning-rod agents' business, and his misleading and extortionate devices. Naturally, the agents are not at all favorable to the erection of home-made rods, and the unscrupulous among them endeavor to reflect upon the efficiency of the home-made article. They will tell you, for instance, that iron has only a fraction of the conductivity of copper, which is true, but this is one reason why experts advise the former instead, the explanation being that a discharge of lightning on to a copper rod is liable to be of so violent a nature as almost to amount to an explosion, causing risk of fire, while with an iron rod the current is drawn downward more quietly. The fact of the matter is that so-called copper rods are sometimes copper only in name, while often they are flimsy and easily broken. On the other hand, a twisted nine-strand cable of galvanized wire is substantial and durable. A considerable number of barns in Middlesex and other counties have been protected with these rods. Among others, the well-known dairy farmer, Henry Glendinning, of Manilla, informed us that he had put them on his barn, and stated further, that one day when threshing, a thunderstorm came up, staying the operations. During the storm a vivid flash, immediately followed by a deafening crash of thunder, led the men to believe that the barn had been struck. Going out after the storm, they found that a log lying against the rod had been displaced, and charred, or splintered, if we remember rightly, indicating at all events that the current had followed the rod to the ground. Not improbably it saved the barn, and perhaps some lives as well.

As to cost, the materials for rodging a seventy-foot barn, forty feet high, wires, standards, staples, nails and corks, will cost \$4.50, or less than 2½ cents per foot of rod. Carpenters and handy men can make good wages putting them up for five cents a foot, furnishing everything. The lowest we have heard of agents charging is eleven cents per foot, and from that up to twenty cents, or higher. Any farmer who, after reading this article, can be humbugged into paying \$30 for a job that can be better done by himself, or a handy neighbor, for \$10, can only be regarded as exemplifying the old saw about a fool and his money being soon parted.

Not Mine, but Ours.

Will you kindly change the name on our "Farmer's Advocate" from Thos. Adams to "T. H. Adams & Sons," as our plan is to have the boys grow up with the idea that they are part of the concern. Boys were city chaps for a number of years, knew nothing of country life, and were greenies of the first water. Now they think there is no place like the farm. They are very much interested in stock, seed plots and dairying. That is why I ask to have name on paper changed, as everything about the ranch is OURS. I am only one of the boys. T. H. ADAMS.
Essex Co., Ont.

We wish about ten good feeders in every county would keep an accurate account of their pig-feeding operations, and submit results to "The Farmer's Advocate" once a year. Volume wanted.

HORSES.

The Horse Trade.

Horses of both the heavy and light classes are at present in greater demand and selling for higher prices than last year, and there is every prospect of an increasing demand and profitable prices for years to come for all the good ones likely to be raised in this country. Dealers experience difficulty in filling orders for work horses for the trade in the Northwest, and declare they could do a large export business in the heavy-draft class could they find horses large and weighty enough for the requirements of that market. Continued railway construction calls for a large supply, and the better class of carriage and saddle horses, owing to their scarcity, are bringing higher prices than for many years past. The stock of growing colts in the country, we are assured, is by no means large, and the probability of overproduction need cause no distrust as to the future of the industry, as the old stock, in the natural course, will be wearing out and dying off as regularly as usual, and young stock will be needed to fill their places, as well as to provide horse-power for the many thousands of acres of new land which will be brought into cultivation in the coming years, besides supplying the wants of the numerous growing towns and cities throughout the Dominion. Farmers have the business of horse breeding and raising practically in their own hands, and will do well to provide for the trade by producing the kind and quality the markets demand. The majority of farmers may profitably breed a colt or two each year without losing the service of the mares, as, with good management, they will do a large share of the farm work while raising their colts, and the youngsters be none the worse for it, since they may be early taught to feed in the stable while the mares are at work, and may run with them on pasture at night. Farmers who have good sound mares, of desirable type, should put them to breeding, and not yield to the enticement of the dealer to part with them. The scarcity of desirable horses at present is largely attributable to the dearth of good brood mares in the hands of farmers, who have been tempted by liberal offers to sell, rather than keep them, the result being that mares of excellent type, both of the heavy and the lighter classes, which should be breeding, are seen at service on our city streets.

There is no scarcity of good pure-bred stallions now, thanks to the enterprising spirit of breeders and importers, and there is in most districts no reasonable excuse for breeding to mongrel, grade or unsound horses. It pays well in the end to take advantage of the service of the best sire within reasonable distance, though the fee may be a little higher, as the chances are that the selling value of the produce will, at any age, be many times greater than the difference in the service fee of a superior, and that of an inferior or middle-class horse. The best policy to adopt is to keep one's best young mares, and breed them to the best horse available of the breed or class to which the mares most nearly conform. There is a keen demand, as we have said, for high-class horses of the heavy-draft sort, and also for the carriage and saddle classes, such as the Hackney and Thoroughbred sire are suited to produce, and the prospect is favorable to a continuance of the demand, at high prices, for the best of each of the types named.

Feeding the Orphan Foal.

In the event of the death of the dam at foaling time, the youngster may, by judicious management, be successfully raised by hand. The best substitute for mare's milk is cow's milk, but it must be remembered that the milk of the average cow is much richer in fat than that of the mare, and is deficient in sugar. To correct these conditions, the milk of a freshly-calved cow should be used; always the milk of the same cow, and, if practicable, of a cow whose milk is not rich in fat, and to this add one-fifth of warm water, adding to each pint of that a heaping tablespoon of white granulated sugar, and be always sure to feed it at blood heat. The colt should be fed little and often. If we study the colt when with its mother, we will find that it sucks from ten to a dozen times a day. Therefore, give him half a teacupful every hour at first, and gradually increase the quantity, while feeding less frequently, until he is fed six times a day, and then four times. The best way to teach the foal to drink is by means of a rubber nipple on the spout of a teapot. If scours occur, a little lime-water, warmed, should be added to the milk. To prepare lime-water, slake a lump of lime by pouring a little water on it; then add water and stir. Let this settle for several hours, and the clear water on top is the lime-water to be used. The foal should be kept in a loose box, well bedded, and may be taught to drink from a pail when a month old, and to eat ground oats and bran. When let out to pasture it should be stabled at night, or protected from rains.