

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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Moreover, as Robt. Miller remarked, it is possible to manipulate pedigrees so as to deceive 95 per cent. of horsemen, leading them to believe a pedigree is straight and registered when it is not. The only safe way to do is to put pure-breds in one class and grades in another. It was then moved, in amendment to resolution 1, section a, that the words "for three years," be struck out, thus providing for the perpetual recognition of grade sires as "Class 2." The amendment was lost. It was explained, however, that if, at the end of three years, it were deemed advisable to extend the time during which sound grade sires that had proved good stock-getters might be used, such extension might be made, at the discretion of the Government.

Some good-natured crossfiring was done over the prospective efficiency or otherwise of the Government inspectors. One man thought if they were no better than the members of the investigating commission they wouldn't be much good. W. A. McKenzie, of Mitchell, wondered if a veterinary surgeon could tell better how to breed a mare than the farmer who raised the colts. Though assuring the audience that he was casting no aspersions on the veterinary profession, he described scathingly how the veterinary surgeon comes out to the farm, "looks at the eyes and looks at the teeth, and asks whether the patient has been on grass, and if he has, that's the cause; and if he hasn't, that's the cause." This, of course, is somewhat aside from the question, as it is not proposed to dictate how any farmer shall breed his mares, but merely to attempt to raise the average class of stallions in use. The final conundrum proposed was as to what risk would be taken by a horseman who bought a stallion from an importer, and found that he failed to pass inspection. The way out of this difficulty is to buy subject to inspection.

With regard to syndicating, the feeling was that there is a right and a wrong way of going at it. Where a number of men in a locality club

together, and go out to buy a horse so as to raise the standard of the horses in their locality, it is all right; but, where a professional horseman or syndicator comes in to organize a syndicate, and probably hires the services of a local man so as to unload a useless or inferior stallion at a long price, it is all wrong. It is this kind of syndicating that it is desired to control.

As for the general proposition of stallion license, something remains to be said on the other side. It is not and will not be all plain sailing. The difficulty will be to secure the services of enough competent men, absolutely above favoritism or influence, and to persuade the general public that their work is impartial. There are, however, grave evils connected with the horse industry crying loudly for redress, and, on the whole, the experiment of licensing appears to be well worth the attempt.

## THE LANCASTER LEVEL-CROSSING BILL.

The Canadian House of Commons is deserving of the warmest commendation for its promptness in re-enacting, at the very first opportunity, the bill to compel railways to protect level crossings in the thickly-settled portions of cities, towns and villages, or to limit the speed of trains to ten miles an hour, in order to stay the frightful slaughter of people that has been going on for years. E. A. Lancaster, M. P., of Lincoln, is a stayer, and is to be congratulated for forcing the measure to the front for the fourth time, and Hon. Mr. Graham, the new Minister of Railways, manifested his solicitude for the public weal, and a determination to expedite a piece of legislation that commended itself, by facilitating its course through the orthodox three readings and the Railway Committee, so that it now goes up once more to the Senate. The history of this measure is a fitting illustration of the long-drawn struggles of legislation designed in the public interest, but frustrated by corporate influence, and ultimately strangled in the obsolete and reactionary Red Chamber. It was first introduced in 1905, and, after being reported by the Railway Committee, was put to death in the House Committee of the Whole. In the two succeeding sessions of Parliament, it was killed in the Senate, but, like the proverbial cat, it will not stay "dead." As Hon. Mr. Graham remarked, in assenting to the measure, the question of level crossings and their dangers will not stay down in this country, for there must be no laxity in the protection of the people. Human life is greater than dividends. It is of paramount importance, and, until effectual measures are enforced, the battle will go on, impelled by a spirit of humane democracy, until it is settled aright.

## PASS THE WOODLAND-EXEMPTION BY-LAW NOW.

Once more let us urge, with all the persuasion that can be conveyed through print, every township in old Ontario that is suffering the consequences of excessive deforestation to pass a by-law without delay, exempting from taxation all unimproved woodland up to one acre in ten of the total farm area, but not to exceed 25 acres held under a single ownership. The Downey bill, finally amended at last session, gives township councils authority to pass such by-laws, subject to a few easy conditions as to thickness of stand and character of growth thereon. The Act, as published in 1906, owing, presumably, to a clerical error, did not carry out the intention of its framers, and provided for the exemption from taxation of only one acre out of every ten acres of bush on the farm, which would be too small an exemption for any ratepayer to take the trouble to secure. As amended at last session of the Legislature, however, it provides that a farmer with 100 acres of land, of which 10 acres is unimproved bush of prescribed character and density, may have the whole ten acres of land exempted from taxation, which is only right and fair in view of the advantages of such woodland to the community at large in checking winds, maintaining the flow of streams and springs, harboring birds, beautifying the landscape, increasing the productivity of remaining areas, and making the country a more desirable place in which to live. Do not wait for a neighbor to take action. Agitate this matter, and have a woodland exemption by-law passed now. It will be a public-spirited act for which you and your neighbors will be thankful in coming years.

## FEMALE TEACHERS AND DISCIPLINE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of November 7th there appeared a letter from H. S. Berlanguet which should not escape unnoticed. There have been several opinions given as to the cause of the imperfections in our present school system, and Mr. Berlanguet has added another, viz., lack of discipline. He goes further, and, to a large extent, lays this serious charge of so much educational grievance onto our female teachers. He says a boy should be under the instruction of a male teacher from the time he enters the third book. If this idea were carried into effect, female teachers would be excluded from rural schools, and only a few would be left in town and city schools, because nearly every rural school has a fourth class, and only a rare school is graded. If Mr. Berlanguet would introduce such a reform, he is doubtless prepared to defend it, which he does not satisfactorily do in his letter.

Granting that there is faulty discipline, can there be any logical reason advanced why any one female teacher should be more responsible for it than any one male teacher? It is true that the female teachers are in the majority, but that does not make the proportion of blame fall more heavily on each female teacher than on each male teacher.

If it were the case that physical strength were necessary to enforce commands and maintain order, then we would have no hesitation in saying a male teacher would be preferable. It is considered advisable among many of our prominent educationists that corporal punishment should be resorted to only in extreme cases. It is the individuality of the teacher that counts more than anything else in the discipline of the school. The teacher, male or female, who can maintain discipline through having her class do right because it is right to do right, has accomplished infinitely more than the teacher who maintains discipline by having a strap to terrify all offenders. It does not appeal to a boy's finer feelings or his chivalry, nor yet is it complimentary to him to have him know that the strongest weapon his teacher has to enforce obedience is to resort to corporal punishment. Although it is a good thing to be able to inflict corporal punishment when it is needed, yet, to depend on it to keep order, is quite an inferior method compared to the method of keeping order by causing the class to see that it is a noble thing to do right for right's sake.

A large percentage of our teachers realize the merits of the latter method, and work accordingly. This, then, being the highest aim of education in children, I have yet to hear any logical reason why a woman is not as competent to teach as a man. If children are to be taught truthfulness, honesty, kindness, charitableness, purity of thought and action, and other virtues, they must be taught by one who possesses such qualities. A man's mental mechanism is not so peculiarly arranged that he can possess these virtuous qualities to a greater extent than a woman can. It is surely recognized beyond a doubt that woman has proved herself man's equal in all social, religious and moral questions.

An objection may be raised that women, as a class, are too gentle, tender and delicate by nature to have charge over an advanced class of boys. It is true that woman's individuality differs from man's, and it is good that it is so. It is quite possible, and often the case, that gentleness, tenderness and delicacy can be accompanied by firmness, justness and decision, respectively. There are cases on record where a female teacher has taken charge of a very unruly school and transformed it into an exemplary school. There are men and women to-day who tell us they got their inspiration for true manliness and womanliness of character from a female teacher, while they were under her tuition.

During a model-school term, not long ago, one of the modelites was left in charge of the class with whom she was conducting a lesson. The class acquitted themselves admirably, were courteous and kind throughout, and couldn't have shown better order if their own teacher had been present. The modelite congratulated the teacher afterwards on the good behavior of her class, and asked her the secret of her success. She replied, "I trust them. They know it, and they are true to me." The teacher who can inculcate principles so binding as that class felt them to be, has undoubtedly the right method. Now, that was a lady teacher, the class a senior fourth, between thirty and forty in number, and boys exclusively. Instances of schoolrooms in chaos, presided over by a female teacher, are often quoted to prove the inefficiency of their teaching as a class, whereas the fault lies with the individual teacher alone. It would be just as wise to assert that, because some men do not make good teachers, therefore all men are incompetent to teach.

The old schooldays of thirty or forty years ago are not desirable at present. People now have ceased to speak commendably of a system of