

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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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.

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tion of waste, but makes farming far more interesting, and also helps to solve the labor problem by providing continuous employment throughout the year.

Besides the cattle and hogs, sheep should be accorded a place on nearly every farm. As weeders and soil improvers, a small flock easily earn their keep. Poultry, too, should receive more attention. Modern poultry-housing is inexpensive and modern directions for the care of poultry are less exacting than was formerly the case. Horse-breeding, again, opens an avenue of snug profit. A couple of good sound brood mares should be part of every farm stock.

Then, in addition to these staple lines, there are unexampled opportunities in up-to-date orchard practice. Throughout Western Ontario the apple tree receives scant credit, yet here and there, as at Forest, Chatham, Simcoe, and other points, the business of apple-production has been revolutionized, and the orchard has become the best-paying asset on the farm. It should be so everywhere, and, eventually, bearing orchards of standard varieties will be commonly valued at \$500 to \$1,000 an acre, as they now are in Nova Scotia.

In many localities, strawberry-growing offers splendid opportunities to increase farm revenues, while, in the special fruit districts, prospects for peach, grape, plum and bush-fruit culture were never brighter. In the vicinity of cities, milk production for the retail trade has assumed the proportions of an extensive industry, while market-gardening, in its various phases, is another of rapidly-growing proportions. On the Island of Montreal is a musk-melon grower who produces cantaloupes which often sell for \$2.00 apiece. In fact, on every hand opportunities for adding to farm profits by new branches and specialties adapted to the locality are presenting themselves faster than we can perceive and grasp them. All it requires is enterprise and study. The modern

farmer must be a reader, a thinker, and a manager, above all else.

The young man now looking towards the farm may rest assured that he is choosing a select occupation, a paying occupation, and one that will improve in standing and opportunities with each succeeding year. Let him not be alarmed if he cannot secure a two-hundred-acre ranch. Fifty acres, well worked by up-to-date methods, will furnish a better living than many a hundred-acre farm does to-day. Good soil and convenient location are more to be desired than vast area.

Farm values all over Canada are rising, but especially in the neighborhood of cities, and as the West fills up they will rise faster. The new agriculture will make far more out of the soil than did the old-time grain-and-hay system, and the diversified agriculture of fifty years hence will easily support double or treble the agricultural population now scattered over the broad expanse of Eastern Canada. It is a good time for the young man to strike root into the soil.

THE MARCH OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

"Canadian Agriculture" was the subject of an incisive and informing address, before the Canadian Institute, Toronto, by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, Experimentalist at the Ontario Agricultural College. Our readers will appreciate the synopsis published in this issue, for several reasons. Those engaged in the industry, and sometimes public men, appear to overlook its commanding magnitude, disclosed in the fact that agricultural products surpass in value the combined total value of all the products of forest, mine, fisheries, wild animals, and of manufactured products, less cost of raw material. Here, then, is the basis of the country's material prosperity, and in this fact lies an irrefutable argument for a scheme of public education that will serve the interests of the agricultural population at least equally with professional and mercantile pursuits. We are obliged to Prof. Zavitz for calling public attention, at this juncture in the discussion of the Ontario rural-school problem, to the widespread recognition of the paramount importance of agricultural instruction in the scholastic systems of other countries, from the lower grades in the rudimentary schools, right up through the colleges and normal institutions. Canada cannot afford to lag behind.

HOW "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE" STANDS IN

Many and quaint are the anecdotes that come to hand, illustrating the place which "The Farmer's Advocate" holds in the estimation of Canadian husbandmen. It is said that one careful father, whose daughters were visiting at a city relative's home, noticing a leading magazine on the library table, picked it up, and, handing it to the hostess, requested her not to allow his daughters to read it, as the only literature he sanctioned them to peruse was "The Farmer's Advocate" and the family Bible.

Another incident, vouched for by a reputable physician, comes from a hospital up in Muskoka. A woman patient, in the early convalescent stage, awoke from a sleep to ask the day of the week. "Thursday," replied the nurse. "Thursday, eh, that's the day 'The Farmer's Advocate' is published."

But the latest to hand is from A. E. Sherrington, who, in company with another delegate, was to speak at a fruit-institute meeting in Simcoe County. The only man who turned out was the one who had called the meeting. After a while he was seen to pick himself up and move towards the door. "What's the matter, you're not going, too?" "Yes, my wife is over here visiting some of her folks, and I guess I'll go there. I take 'The Farmer's Advocate' and read it, and I don't think anyone can tell me much about co-operation or fruit-raising."

I have been a subscriber to your valuable paper only since last Christmas, and am always pleased to read the many articles, and also the Questions and Answers to correspondents, for they contain information of great value to farmers. A good number of our neighbors subscribe for it. I believe many more will this Christmas.
Simcoe Co., Ont. CHAS. NORTHGRAVES.

THE FARMER'S OWN FAIR.

The Ontario Winter Fair, at Guelph, to be held this year on the dates December 9th to 13th, a summary of the programme for which will be found on another page in this issue, has proved the proposition that a farmers' fair without fireworks or circus performances can be made a success in the best sense of the word. It is the rounding-up live-stock, poultry and seed show of the year, where time and opportunity is given for the study of breeds and types of pure-bred and commercial cattle, sheep, swine and fowl, alive and in the dressed carcass; of seeing these judged and placed in order of merit by competent experts; of hearing helpful addresses and lectures by experienced farmers, breeders, feeders and scientists on the best methods of management, and the reason for certain results. And this year additional features of interest have been added to the programme, one of which is a discussion of the important question of improved roads, a question in which all are intimately interested, and none more than those in the great dairy districts of the Province, to be led by A. W. Campbell, C. E., Deputy Minister of Public Works, Toronto, and D. Ward King, of Missouri, the originator of the split-log drag, of which "Farmer's Advocate" readers have heard so much during the passing year. Mr. King has a continental reputation as an authority on road construction and maintenance, and is an able exponent of his views and experience as a lecturer on the platform. This is a large subject, and needs all the light that can be thrown upon it.

The horse industry is another topic in which all farmers are personally interested, and its discussion, in the light of the report of the Government Commission, as to the need of concerted action in the matter of improving the general horse stock of the Province, should interest every farmer who raises colts of any class.

The economical feeding of stock, a subject of special importance at the present time, is down for discussion, and should prove helpful to many who are short of supplies of fodder and other feedstuffs. The milking trials of dairy cows, the seed show, and the poultry display (the greatest of the year), the judging competition for young farmers, and the many other features of interest outlined in the programme, should prove attractive to all classes of farmers.

It is safe to say that in no way can young farmers spend a week more profitably than by taking in this short course of practical education, commencing on Monday afternoon with the annual meeting of the Experimental Union at the Agricultural College, open to all, where questions especially relating to the seeding and cultivation of farm crops will be discussed. Apart from the reports and discussions regarding the experimental work of the year, probably the outstanding feature of the Union meetings will relate to agricultural instruction in the public-school system. In addition to addresses by Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and President G. C. Creelman, of the O. A. C., reports are expected from the teachers of the six new agricultural classes in High Schools.

The judging of live stock commences on Tuesday afternoon, and the lectures, commencing the same day, are continued for four days. In former years, too many have made the mistake of leaving on Thursday, thus missing the Friday lectures on the dressed carcasses, and their sale by auction, which have generally been of special interest. This year, Mr. D. Ward King, who is an expert in horse-training, as well as on roads, will give a lecture on this subject and a practical demonstration in the show-ring of the training of an unbroken colt on Friday morning. As many as possible should, therefore, plan to stay till the close of the show.

A feature of the week will be the creamery meeting at the O. A. C., beginning at 1 p. m. on Thursday, December 12th, when half a dozen of the foremost experts in the dairy industry will introduce topics bristling with interest at the present time. In conjunction with the dairy-cattle section at the show, the addresses will relate to such live problems as cow-testing, co-operation between patrons and factorymen, and the sanitary handling of milk and milk products.