

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, Manager.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday.
It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, 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, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
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10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
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. ADDRESSES OF CORRESPONDENTS ARE CONSIDERED AS CONFIDENTIAL and will not be forwarded.
14. 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.
Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited),
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Two Requests.

We desire, in order to complete the old files of the first season of publication of "The Farmer's Advocate" to secure if possible from our readers any copies in their possession of the first issue, or later ones, during the latter part of the year 1866. For complete copies of issues in that year we will pay \$20 per volume, and for single numbers \$1.00 each. All must reach this office not later than Sept. 25.

We are anxious also to secure the names and post office addresses of the heads of families where "The Farmer's Advocate" was read from the first or second year of publication, and particularly of those where it has been taken continually from that time.

What is being done by our cheese producers to build up a market for Canadian Cheddar cheese after the war? At present the surplus goes to the soldiers, and the people in Britain are eating cheese made at home. Where will our market be after the war if something is not done?

Just how much agriculture is dependent upon the weather is brought home in a season when grain grows in the stook just as much as when everything dries up. The weather must always be reckoned with.

The Germans are now just one week over a year late in their visit to Paris. It will be remembered that Europe's War Lord promised to give a dinner to his leaders in Paris Aug. 11, 1914.

There are times when all weather signs appear to fail. Solomon was about right when he observed that farmers who spend their time watching the clouds will not reap.

Rain.

If St. Swithin greets, the proverb says
The weather will be foul for forty days.

Probably no subject is so commonly talked about and so little really understood as the weather. Largely beyond control, it is, yet the greatest factor affecting farm-cropping operations. Nothing causes so much fruitless complaining as the weather. Incidentally, dry periods help in weed killing, and compel us to study how to conserve moisture. Repeated flooding of the fields drives some people to draining who are not amenable to other reasons. Most of us rely on the phases of the moon to bring a change for the better in the weather, and if a new moon does not break the wet spell then the case is hopeless, but meteorologists agree that the idea of the moon exerting a controlling influence on the weather, especially at its changes, has no foundation in fact. If a marked change does occur with the new moon for instance, the weather scientist regards it as a coincidence. We need not look to astronomy for the science of the weather. If men could control it confusion would be worse confounded, for every individual or neighborhood would want a different brand. Meteors and the number and activity of sun spots are supposed to affect the supplies of heat received by the earth, and this in turn influences air currents and evaporation, which with the proximity of great bodies of water have to do with rainfall. If we may not forecast the weather by the moon's changes its appearance will afford a clue because that depends upon the state of the atmosphere and the clouds. Rings about the moon and a "pale moon" portend storms. Some rely on bees remaining in their hives prior to rain, and others discern its coming when cats rub their ears, due to the air being highly charged with electricity. In several counties of Western Ontario the abnormally wet period during July and early August recalled the old English St. Swithin's Day (July 15) legend of 40 day's rain, and set many people thinking as to the physical reasons for such heavy and persistent downpours. Our most trustworthy forecasts are the daily "Probs" worked out on international observations by the meteorological offices, but being prepared for such extensive areas these cannot hit it exactly for every place.

Simply defined, rain is the water vapor of the atmosphere condensed into drops large enough to fall upon the earth. The amount of water vapor which the air will hold depends upon its temperature. The moisture tends to condense about dust particles in the atmosphere, which radiate their heat rapidly. Clouds, thus formed, are said to consist of tiny particles of water-dust which cooling further coalesce into drops as rain. The amount of cooling requisite to produce rain depends on the quantity of moisture present in the air. The amount of cooling and the initial temperature also govern the intensity of rainfall. A long period of dry weather is succeeded by a corresponding wet, unsettled spell. Once the land becomes thoroughly saturated heat evaporates the moisture, and if not carried away by strong, persistent wind rain is produced as the saturated, warm air ascends and is cooled to the point where precipitation begins. Once it starts raining it is very easy to continue—just like sliding down hill. In the deluged area referred to these were just the conditions reported prevailing, with moderate winds continually alternating from southwest to east and northeast, and then back the same way. Meanwhile the sun kept on pumping up the water into the air which just as regularly spilled it down again, damaging some crops and benefitting others, most of all the aftermath and pastures. Normally it is said there is enough vapor in the air to cover the whole earth with water four inches deep, and an inch of rainfall on a square mile is estimated to mean one million cubic feet of water. We may growl at the erratic weather and the excess of rain which, as it usually comes, is a most indispensable blessing, causing the rivers to flow and the crops to grow. All the why and wherefore of it we may not comprehend. The wind bloweth where it listeth and we hear its sweep, but the whence and the whither of it who can tell? So with the rain,

but there are also certainties, and one of these is that the man with the leaky roof and undrained field is the chief sufferer, and he knows the reason why.

The Art of Keeping Young.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Peter McArthur, in a recent reminiscent mood, recalls for the probable self-congratulation of the present day boy, the boyhood chores of the past; the peculiar jobs, as he calls them, of old time importance; the once indispensable duties that have now disappeared with the days that had need of them. I quite understand that Peter did not in the least intend to enumerate exhaustively all bygone boyhood bugbears, but yet, he might have included in the category that he gave that which St. Beuve said that De Musset had, by dying in early life, bequeathed to his mourning contemporaries "the task of growing old." For that was the task "par excellence" of the passing generation, from the great-grandfather down to the littlest tot that thought, the idea dominated that the human being was born and existed almost for the sole purpose of growing old; and that the sooner one did it, that is the sooner the child grew into a man, and the man matured into the father, and the father ripened into the patriarch, the sooner and more worthily would one's destiny be accomplished, and the greater the reward both here and hereafter. It did not matter that the child was made to miss the most of childhood's merry delights, or that the youth, in snatching the fulsome flowers of a more forward period ere those of his own had scarcely budded, bridged over in ignorance the marvelous potentiality of his most expansive years; or that men and women in prematurely apprehending the duties of parenthood bequeathed to their offspring mostly but the accentuation of their own deficiencies. It did not matter that the whole course condemnably condensed life into mere existence and animalism. Nothing mattered but the speedy accomplishment of the pre-eminent and universal task—the task of growing old.

No one will deny, and I gladly recognize that Mr. McArthur does not, that modern boys work as hard as did boys of the past but they work with more of promise and remuneration. The boy of to-day has become so valuable an asset of the future that we can no longer afford to squander his time, ambition and vitality on the interminable and non-paying chores that we did of yore. We now think it cheaper to buy gates for the gaps, to build temporary fences for the cattle, to tear out an occasional hill of corn with a big cultivator than to waste our boys who have need of every waking moment of a too fast passing period of impressionable facility and dirigible enthusiasm to learn the antithesis of the task of growing old, which is the art of keeping young.

Many a word spoken in jest strikes home because of its pregnancy of earnest truthfulness and solemnity. When Dr. Osler passed sentence on all men of sixty and over, the words went around the world, not because they constituted a joke, but because they gave expression to a long-disguised truism of our time,—the truism that the old could no longer rule or teach or exhortate. In other words—that the day of patriarchal leadership had passed away.

Not that the aged are less loved and revered than they were of old but that they are no longer the guides of importance that they once were; and that chiefly for the reason that they have allowed themselves to stay far behind the present day trend of thought and sentiment. We respect their years and position but we resent bitterly and resist stubbornly their efforts to draw us in their direction. We admire their achievements but we adventurously desire to strike out in our own way. We know the worth of their opinion and judgment but we flout it constantly for the fresher outlook of the more youthful functionary. Not that old age has not yet its own peculiar value, but that it is no longer representative and directive. Above all it is no longer the objective point of existence.

For the World has at last realized that in the young it has the promise of the future fulfillment of all that the old have failed to accomplish, and for that reason the World, with all that it contains, has transferred its allegiance from the old to the young. The Church is now so busy in the interests of youth that the old sinner finds fair of a chance of dying in his own chosen way. The agricultural officialdom of the Dominion is likewise so taken up with the proper education and training of the farm boy that the old farmer bids fair of a chance to till his fields in his own unproductive fashion. Between day, Sunday, and vacation schools, between long, and short, and intermediary courses your boy has so little time to spare that if you still need some one for old-fashioned chores you will have to employ an old fellow.

And the moral of it all is, that as the World has transferred its allegiance, as it has supplanted the old-fashioned task of growing old by the novel art of keeping young, so must we, if we would keep pace with the World, do likewise.