

## 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 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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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.
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be just as likely to cater to the Big Interests. It is time for the people to insist upon careful and safe administration of public funds. Surely the railways and promoters have about had their innings.

### The Cost of Government Printing— Or Where Canada Could Save a Million Annually.

Just before the Dominion Parliament prorogued the Printing Committee brought in a few recommendations in an endeavor to reduce the cost of Government printing from its present pinnacle to a sum more in keeping with the needs of this work. Readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" who get many of the blue books and the piles of Government publications sent out know something of the profusion of these publications, but they by no means know of all of them and have little idea of what it costs annually to do Government printing. The expenditure in 1915 for printing these Government publications had increased to \$1,807,390, whereas in 1895 the expense was only \$330,627, and, as a member of the Senate pointed out, there was no complaint about there not being enough Government publications in 1895. The Printing Committee recommended that, in future, cards be sent out to all those whose names were on the mailing lists asking them to indicate what publications they desire and these could be sent them. It was pointed out in debate that one particular publication, which we understand required tons upon tons of paper and was printed at great expense was turned out to the number of 110,000 copies, but only 25,000 people could be induced to take it, or had any use for it, and consequently \$5,000 copies were simply waste paper. Those who get all the Government blue books and publications know that many of them are sent to people who can make no use of them. We believe that the suggestions of the Printing Committee should be acted upon and that cards should be prepared containing a full list of the publications, and these cards should be sent to all those on the mailing list, with the request that they be filled in to indicate only the publications desired by these parties for use. Most of the publications are valuable but they are not valuable to all

people. We find many of them very useful in this office, but as is the case in every other office or on the farm we find that large numbers of them are simply waste paper to us. The same is true the country over. Some have use for certain volumes others for certain other volumes and the way to cut down expense would be to find out just what the people want and send them nothing more.

Mailing lists should also be revised annually as suggested by the Printing Committee. It was brought out in debate that some of these lists had not been revised for from 20 to 25 years, and that the publications were going to institutions which had been out of business for years.

All those who have followed these publications closely will also agree with the suggestion that they be cut down in size, as most of them contain much useless material, and, in many, better systems of compilation and general make-up would save space and consequently thousands of dollars to the country. The high quality of paper and profuse, unnecessary and expensive illustrating and the general verbosity common to these volumes could very well be dispensed with. The fault is not all with the present Government. The increase has been going on for years and it is time to call a halt. One Senator remarked that he thought it would be easy to cut down the Government expenditure for printing by at least \$500,000. We would go one further and state that the country would not suffer from lack of Government publications if \$1,000,000 per year were saved by a judicious re-consideration and re-organization of Governmental printing work and distribution. Here is another good place to promote thrift.

### Catch Crops for a Backward Season.

In a season such as this has been with a late spring followed by continuous downpours and cold, backward weather, many farmers rather than sow the regular crop which they had intended sowing on certain fields, are forced, through circumstances, to abandon their original intentions and make other cropping arrangements. Fortunately, there are a few crops which can be depended upon if sown late. Feed, both coarse and concentrated, must be provided for next winter and it is imperative that every acre be sown to some crop which will have a reasonable chance to do well, provided weather conditions from now on prove favorable.

We would not advise anyone to change from regular crops to catch crops of any class whatever until such change is necessary. For instance, it is not too late yet to sow mangels. Of course they are better in earlier, but we have seen excellent crops of these roots produced from sowings made the first week in June. A fair crop of roots would be more profitable than a summer-fallow unless, of course, the field was very dirty and required a thorough cleaning, but few fields intended for cereals would be this bad. Where the season grows so late through the protracted wet weather if the grower is dubious about a crop of mangels he should not fail to sow Swede turnips. They make a good crop to use in conjunction with silage, or to feed alone, will yield almost as much as mangels, will require a little less labor, and may be sown up to the first of July, with fair success, although some time in the first three weeks of June is generally considered the best time to sow.

For a crop to take the place of cereal grains on land which was too wet to sow at the proper time, buckwheat is perhaps the leader. The end of June or first week in July is a good time to sow in most localities. This gives an opportunity to work the land up well before sowing and to get it in good tilth even though the spring is backward. From three pecks to a bushel of buckwheat is generally enough to sow per acre. Some have reported good success from one-half bushel, but we would prefer a thicker seeding. A good crop of buckwheat will prove very profitable this year as a catch crop where conditions have made it impossible to get in other grain, as this grain may be used in mixtures for feeding purposes to very good advantage.

Another crop which deserves some consideration is millet. An article on this crop appeared in our issue of May 11 and we would advise readers to pay some attention to it where there is a likelihood of shortage of fodder for the coming winter. Seeding around the middle of June generally gives the best results. It is well to wait until warm weather before putting in a nurse crop even though sowing should be delayed until July 1. From 25 to 50 pounds per acre is generally enough seed. This crop will not take the place of

good clover or mixed hay, but is much better than letting the land go bare.

Much of the corn will be planted late this year, but it would be generally more advisable to plant an early-maturing variety late than not to plant at all. If the weather shows a tendency to dry up in time a few acres of potatoes might prove profitable as they may be planted late and still come to good maturity. In the sections where rains have been most prevalent it will be a question of what crop can be best handled to insure the most profitable production this year.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUUGH, M.A.

Among all our birds there are few which are more generally beloved than the Baltimore Oriole. And the reasons are not far to seek, as this bird is brilliant in plumage, has a cheery, piping song, makes its abode near the habitations of man, and does no damage to crops of any kind. We have many birds with coloring as brilliant as that of the Oriole, but they do not habitually haunt the orchard and door-yard; we have many whose songs are of a finer quality than that of the Oriole, but they are found in the deep woods. Consequently these birds are comparatively little known except by those who seek them, or by those whose work takes them into the forest in summer, while the Oriole is well-known and well-loved.

Another feature which arouses interest in the Oriole is the wonderful nest which it builds. This nest is usually constructed at the end of a branch of an Elm. It is pocket-shaped, and usually about seven inches long and four and a half inches wide at the bottom. The top is attached to forked wings at the Y, so that the mouth of the nest will be kept open to allow the bird to pass in and out. The framework of this basket is woven out of twine, and the bottom is more closely woven than the upper part. Into this framework shreds of wood-fibre, fine grass and pieces of plants are woven. The nest is lined with hair. In places where no twine is available the framework of the nest is constructed of vegetable fibre. The eggs are from four to six in number, white, faintly tinged with blue, and spotted and scrawled with lilac and brown mostly towards the larger end.

The main food of the Oriole consists of caterpillars, as these make up thirty-four per cent. of the total food. The rest of the insect food consists of beetles, bugs, plant lice, ants, wasps, and grasshoppers, the beetles being mainly click-beetles, the larvae of which are the very destructive wire-worms.

The Baltimore Oriole is rare in the Maritime Provinces, and common from Western Quebec to Manitoba, and as far north in Ontario as Ottawa. It is gradually extending its range to the north as the country becomes more cleared.

We usually associate frogs with damp places, but there is one species of true frog (that is, not a tree frog) which spends but a very brief period in or near the water. It is to be found in the woods from May to October, and is consequently called the Wood Frog. In coloration this frog is very variable, as it may be chocolate-brown, reddish-brown, yellowish-brown, fawn color or grayish-brown, and not only may different individuals be of different colors, but the same individual may be one color one minute and quite a different color fifteen minutes later. The lower back may or may not be irregularly spotted, and the legs may be or may not be barred. The underparts are yellowish or greenish-white. There is a large patch of dark brown or black in the region of the ear, and this patch usually extends from the snout to the shoulder, widening as it runs backwards. A light line runs from along the jaw from snout to shoulder, and it is this line together with the black patch mentioned above that are the identification marks of this species.

It is a small frog, the full-grown males averaging about two inches in length from snout to the end of the body, and the females about three inches. The Wood Frog when on land is a silent species, and it is only in late March or early April when they are spawning in the pools and ponds that they utter a note. At this time the males keep up a continuous croaking and the notes they utter are much like the quacking of ducks. The eggs are laid in the water in masses about four or five inches in diameter, and may be attached to twigs or float free. After they have been laid about a week the egg-mass flattens and spreads, and the jelly about the eggs becomes green in color, due to the presence of minute, green Algae. The time which is required for the eggs to hatch depends upon the temperature of the water, and the rate of development of the tadpoles depends upon the same factor. In shallow, temporary pools, in which the water soon becomes warm, they develop very rapidly, but in deeper, permanent ponds their development is relatively slow.

The Wood Frog is one of our most active and alert species, and for its size takes the longest leaps.

An attractive plant now in bloom in our hardwood bushes is the Twisted Stalk. This plant has an erect stem from which long branches fork and grow from fifteen inches to two feet in height. The leaves are ovate, taper-pointed, and rounded and clasping at the base. The little flowers are bell-like, about half an inch in length, rose-pink in color, and hang either singly or in pairs on hair-like stalks from the undersides of the branches. This species belongs

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