

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,  
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2. 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, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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weighing of hogs by farmers, to find out when they could be most profitably shipped, struck him as reducing the bacon business to a science. Though it was winter, the increase in size and number of shade trees was to him wonderful. In short, he was almost prepared to assert that advancement here was almost as great as in Manitoba.

When we bear in mind that the value of the output from the farms of older Ontario, with practically no change in area or population, has doubled in the last sixteen years, we realize something of what has been done. While advance in prices accounts for part of this, increase in production and quality has also taken place. But the limit has not been reached, as we are too prone to think. Another doubling is possible, and ought to be attained in less time.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture C. C. James has been sounding the cheery note of hope in his addresses during the winter. In the East there is, he says, a happy combination of climate, soil, sunshine and water, which makes more extended fruit-growing advisable. Professor W. H. Day has been demonstrating the increased yields to be secured by underdraining. And what with improved seed, more profitable crops, such as corn, alfalfa and clover, 6,000-pounds dairy cows, large incomes from small farms, increasing prices for farm products, etc., all of which are within sight, the future is bright. "The best is yet to be."

A proposal to have the appropriation of the Dominion Government for rural mail delivery supplemented by a grant from the Government of Ontario, is being pushed by George Wilcox, Springfield, Ontario. His hope is that all thickly-populated localities in Ontario, and not the existing mail routes only, might by this means have a three-times-a-week rural mail service, which would be greatly appreciated by the people. Ontario does one-half the mail business of the Dominion, he writes, and as last year's post surplus was \$800,000, he thinks that a considerable proportion of her \$400,000 share of this surplus might well be handed over to this Province by the Ottawa exchequer. This, with a Provincial grant added, would be sufficient for the service referred to.

### Systematic Directions for Spraying

To the average man, spraying fruit trees to control insect pests and fungous diseases, is like using a foreign language with a strange alphabet. He does not know enough about it to know where to start in. The consequence is many never start, unless some neighbor takes hold, and shows by his own practice just how and when to do it.

Now, the science and practice of spraying are like some other things—not so very difficult, after all, when one goes at it. The most perplexing feature of the whole business is the confusing and apparently conflicting variety of methods and recommendations offered. In order to clear up and simplify the whole subject, we have arranged for the publication of a series of articles on the insects and fungous diseases of each fruit, together with the means of controlling them. The times and formulae for the usual sprayings recommended for each fruit are given, together with instructions how to combat the less usual pests, which sometimes call for special spraying or other treatment. These articles are now running in "The Farmer's Advocate," having commenced in the issue of February 17th, and are prepared by a thoroughly well-informed and practical expert, L. Caesar, B. A., B. S. A., Demonstrator in Fungous Diseases and Insects at the Ontario Agricultural College. His directions may be followed implicitly, with confidence. To show how comparatively simple this matter of spraying can be made, Mr. Caesar recommends for the apple and pear only three sprayings, as a usual and ordinary practice: (1) lime-sulphur, before the leaf-buds burst; (2) either Bordeaux or lime-sulphur, combined with arsenate of lead, just before the blossoms open; and (3) the same mixture (only with the fungicide applied in weaker strength) just after the blossoms fall. Some might consider it advisable to make another application of fungicide two or three weeks later for scab, but Mr. Caesar apparently considers that this should not usually be necessary, if the other three sprayings are done thoroughly, according to directions. Instructions how to prepare and apply these several mixtures will appear in season. Meanwhile, read carefully and preserve every one of these articles. Follow directions minutely, be thorough and painstaking, and you will be able to spray fairly effectually, without ever having seen the work done at all. If, in addition, you can witness a demonstration, so much the better.

Any fruit-grower who fails to spray (unless he is most extraordinarily favored by nature), is standing in his own light. If you go at it in earnest, the instructions printed in this paper this spring will be worth to you anywhere from five to fifty dollars net profit per acre—perhaps more. That is too good an opportunity to miss. Spray this year.

### Do Not Starve the Orchard.

What farmer among us would think of growing wheat on a field for twenty years in succession without manure? What would be said of one who attempted not only that, but also to secure at the same time a crop of rye, sown amidst the wheat (assuming for argument's sake that it were possible)? Yet, hundreds of thousands of farmers are every year attempting just such a short-sighted policy. They try to grow apples and grain or hay on the same soil. As Mr. Jones brings out in his admirable contribution on the subject, published last week, it has been estimated that the plant food carried away from an acre of apple orchard in fruit sold and leaves blown off, would be worth, at commercial rates, \$207.45 in twenty years, or over ten dollars' worth a year. Against this, a fifteen-bushel crop of wheat would remove in twenty years only \$128.23 worth of plant food, or between six and seven dollars' worth a year. The orchard makes annual demands almost as heavy as a twenty-five-bushel crop of wheat, not allowing anything for the yearly growth of wood. Remember, too, that an orchard makes no return of roots and stubble to keep up the physical condition of the soil, nothing but a few leaves and the seeds of some waste fruit. Yet, when an orchard has borne a crop of fruit, and perhaps had a crop of hay or grain removed the same season, we wonder why it should need a rest the next year!

Bear in mind that a cropped orchard not only suffers a double demand on its fertility, but the sown crop is almost certain to stint the trees of moisture, particularly in the early part of the season, when an extra supply of it is needed. A good orchard, well attended, is the most profitable branch of the average farm. It should be liberally fertilized with manure and wood ashes, well cultivated in the early part of the season, and then sown to a cover crop, to be plowed under the following spring. It pays handsomely to do it. Do not starve the goose that lays the golden egg.

### Getting His Son Interested.

A real grievance with many farmers is that their sons are interested in the sporting page of the daily paper, in fast roadsters, in the happenings in the city, but not enough in the work that occupies them from day to day, or the stock or farm crops from which their living is derived. It goes without saying that high-class work cannot be done, no matter what line of business is followed, if thoughts are elsewhere while one is busy. But not only does a lack of interest result in inferiority of work and consequent lower returns, it inevitably leads to a dislike for it. A father on the farm has much to answer for in the boy's inclinations are led. But, with the best intentions and efforts on his part, the problem of getting the boy interested in his daily work is a very real one. One of the greatest secrets is to draw the boy out by giving him an active share in the management of the farm. Get his mind working on a few problems, and it will go on from one point to another as naturally as the tendrils of a clinging vine wind about its support. Good agricultural reading is a great aid, and in this connection we append the suggestion of a correspondent, offered by him in explanation of the fact that his name was not on the subscription list. Five years ago he had a bright, intelligent, 15-year-old boy whom he wanted to start right, and, as a move in that direction, presented him with several pure-bred animals. "Now," said he to the boy, "I am going to start you this way, but first of all you must take some good agricultural weekly journal, which, if you read carefully, will give you many a good point that will be useful to you when you come to manhood days." The son, acting on his father's advice, decided, like a sensible boy, to try "The Farmer's Advocate" for one year, with the result that it has been a weekly visitor to that home ever since. His interest has not flagged.

## HORSES.

### Horse Production in Canada.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

For many years the argument has been put forth that the horse was doomed to extinction, by reason of the discovery of more suitable motor-power. But time has proved the fallacy of such statements. Years ago, when electric power was being installed in Toronto and other cities for street-car and other purposes, the horse was said to be doomed to extinction. The bicycle did it again, the automobile was to finish the horse, and the traction engine removed all doubt. Still, the horse is produced in greater numbers, and of better quality, than ever before, and prices paid for good ones rise higher and higher, while the demand has increased until it cannot be supplied with animals of desired character, and, in many places, with animals capable of performing the work required, even though accepted, of undesirable character as to quality and appearance. Therefore, considering the very remunerative prices obtainable, and the good prospects of still higher prices, owing to the increasing demand in city and country alike—in the country to partly solve the labor problem on the farm—also for railway construction and other purposes, as well as for pleasure, it seems as though the producer of good horses will receive profitable returns for them for many years to come, if not for ever. Returning to the traction engine, be it either steam or gasoline, the Western Provinces—Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—offer more suitable conditions for the use of such power than does any other part of Canada. That being the case, there is where it would be expected that the horse should not be required, and that the demand would fall off so that horses would become cheaper. But such is not the case, as one dealer at Winnipeg reports prices in that city \$65 per head higher than a year ago. Pairs weighing from 1,250 to

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