

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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## 1. 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, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

## 2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

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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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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),  
LONDON, CANADA.

Every true teacher delights in such work.

In several localities a start has been made. The Rittenhouse School, at Jordan Harbor, Ont., is perhaps as praiseworthy as any. The interest manifested there, both in the school grounds and in the home gardens, is an evidence of what would follow in every school section. Now that the horticultural instructors at Ontario Agricultural College have rearranged the course of studies so that more attention is to be given to landscape gardening and the culture of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees, it should be an easy matter to get in touch with public-school teachers and trustee boards. The latter should see that nothing is left undone that will insure such campaign in all parts of the country.

### BUSINESS OUTLOOK BRIGHTENING.

According to the October Bank Statement, issued from Ottawa, deposits in Canada increased during the month to the extent of \$11,362,879, while business absorbed, by way of current and call loans, only \$3,322,014 more than during the previous month. The increase in the deposits would appear to signify that the Canadian people have heeded the advice to practice thrift. It also indicates a gratifying improvement in the business outlook, and presages a period of renewed industrial activity. Indeed, where the banks were contracting credits, they now seem inclined to encourage legitimate investment. With good crops in the Canadian West, as well as a very fair harvest over the rest of the country, and with the elections over both in Canada and the United States, the commercial horizon is steadily brightening, and there is every indication that the threatened storm of commercial distress has turned out to be only a passing squall. Hope and confidence, tempered slightly with prudence, is the order of the day.

### NATIONAL AND COMPREHENSIVE IN SCOPE.

Anticipation whets enjoyment. Readers generally will be interested to learn that prominent among the features secured for our coming Christmas Number, to be published December 10th, is an article on "The Farmer's Interest in Forestry," by Dr. B. E. Fernow, the eminent Dean of the Faculty of Forestry in the University of Toronto. Dr. Fernow presents a masterly survey of the timber and forestry situation in Canada, from the standpoint of the farmer as a citizen, and also sets forth strong reasons for individual effort at reforestation, particularly of the waste lands on the farm. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, deals well and comprehensively with the outlook for the beef industry in Canada; and our expert horse writer, "Whip," discusses entertainingly the place of the horse in history; while the services of a select staff of most capable correspondents have been enlisted to good purpose in covering the various other phases of agricultural effort which come within scope of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." The Home Magazine will contain features of exceptional interest, including the opening instalment of a new serial, "The Golden Dog." No pains have been spared to insure the highest standard of illustration and letterpress, and, taken all together, our readers may anticipate a treat of excellent reading and journalistic art.

### PRICE OF THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The splendid Christmas Number, to be issued next week, goes free of charge to every regular subscriber. To non-subscribers, the price of this Number alone is 50 cents per copy. Subscribers who wish to send extra copies as presents to their friends, may order them sent, postpaid, at just half the above price, viz., 25 cents.

### WEAKNESS OF THE COW-TESTING ASSOCIATIONS.

A vital suggestion is offered in the Dairy Department of "The Farmer's Advocate" this week by Dr. Robertson, of Halton Co., Ont., who notes with concern a decrease in the membership of the Cow-testing Association in his community, where an increase had been confidently expected. If other cow-testing associations are as little appreciated by the dairymen as theirs, he suggests that we should inquire into the reasons and seek out a remedy. That Dr. Robertson appreciates the importance of cow-testing is shown by the tenor of his letter, and corroborated by the fact that in the large dairy in which he is interested they have kept daily records for four or five years, though belonging to the Cow-testing Association as well.

Now, here is where our correspondent puts his finger on a serious weakness of the cow-testing movement as organized in Canada:

"We find every caretaker, every milker and every feeder in our dairy interested in the daily records, but quite indifferent to those taken three times a month." He rightly considers that "the desired results of all the efforts and all the assistance of the Department of Agriculture should be: First, the keeping of records by the dairyman himself; second, the weeding out of his herd. The first will surely bring the second. This being taken care of by the association does not seem to encourage personal responsibility. The member does not realize that it is his own work and his own business. Until he keeps a daily record he is not sufficiently interested in his own cows. As soon as he does this he sees new light. He watches the scales morning and evening, and will do his best to keep up the flow of milk day after day."

This is supreme truth. Weighing the milk of a herd three times a month is better than not

weighing at all. If faithfully followed it may give a fairly good idea of the relative value of the cows in the herd, but as a means of getting a dairyman interested in the cow question it is not to be compared to daily records. Daily weighing enables and directly stimulates the dairyman to make more out of the cows he already has; weighing three days a month does not, except to a comparatively slight degree. Daily records keep the dairyman's attention steadily focussed upon his herd; weighing three times a month does not. Daily weighing makes for continuity of effort, and generally leads to permanent results; intermittent weighing is liable to be neglected and sooner or later discontinued.

Then as to lack of self-reliance. The cow-testing association is all right as a beginning, but the prime effort should be to get the dairyman sufficiently interested to weigh each cow's milk at every milking. So far as Babcock testing is concerned, co-operation is a decided convenience, but the co-operators must be brought to realize that they are not merely co-operating to be helped, but co-operating to help themselves.

### MODERATE AND LOGICAL.

I must express my appreciation of the stand "The Farmer's Advocate" has taken on national questions affecting the farmers during the past year or two. Your paper has been moderate and logical, and yet courageous, on these matters, and cannot fail to have a good effect.

E. C. DRURY.

## HORSES.

### CRACKED OR CHAPPED HEELS AND MUD FEVER IN HORSES.

The causes of mud fever and cracked heels are so similar, and, indeed, they are so frequently present at the same time in the same animal, that most of the remarks re prevention of the one are also applicable to the other.

Clipping the limbs, especially the hind limbs, renders them very susceptible to an attack of mud fever, and this susceptibility is increased if the practice of washing off dirt immediately on coming in from a journey is followed by the persons in charge, and it is a well-known fact that the dirt in some districts is much more liable to produce the disease than that in others. This is doubtless owing to its tenacious character and irritating properties.

Cold winds, and particularly draughts, acting on limbs and the under surface of the abdomen, when mud is splashed during progression, prove very great factors in inducing mud fever and cracked heels, and cold, hard water aggravates the irritating effects of both cold wind and mud much more than soft water.

To prevent mud fever and cracked heels, in addition to leaving the hair on the parts likely to be affected, which, as has already been mentioned, is one of the most effectual preventives of these troubles, care should be taken never to allow an animal to stand in a cold wind or draught from the bottom of a door, etc., when his legs are wet and he has been heated by violent exercise, such as on a return from a journey at a fast pace. Whenever a horse comes in with his legs so dirty that its removal is necessary for the comfort of the animal, either a rubbing down with dry cloths, to clear off as much as possible without wetting, and allowing the remainder to dry on until it can be brushed off, or washing off with water, preferably soft, and then thoroughly drying, should be resorted to, and the precautions taken not to allow the limbs to be exposed to a draught, as already mentioned.

It is the alternate chill and irritation acting on the skin when in a heated or congested state from exertion that produces both mud fever and cracked heels; thus, when a horse is splashing himself with mud while travelling, the wet mud sets up a certain amount of irritation (some kinds of mud being much more irritating to the skin when damp than others, hence the prevalence of mud fever and cracked heels in certain districts), the parts soon become partially dry and heated, then a fresh lot of wet or mud, or both, is splashed on, which suddenly chills the skin, to again become partially dry, and again chilled, until the horse eventually arrives home; and then, if the mud is washed off with cold water, the legs, etc., are thoroughly chilled temporarily, after which there is a reaction, corresponding to the "glow" one feels after a cold bath, and the parts are just in a condition to be seriously affected by a cold draught.

When, by reason of the large amount of dirt, or other circumstances, it is almost imperative