

## 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,"  
Winnipeg, Man.

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.—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.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
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9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.
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. 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.

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33 eggs, while the other laid 23. It kept the lead into January. About this time we thought of trying a little experiment with a certain poultry food, and were about to use it on the poorest-doing pen. However, the use of this food involved preparing a daily mash, which it was not convenient for us to do, so the experiment was not commenced. Strangely enough, about this time the other pen began to pull ahead, completing January with 170 eggs to their credit, while the first pen had 169, and maintaining the lead through the early part of February, with an average of 12 eggs per day, as against 8.8 by its rival. Now, supposing we had introduced some change in feed or treatment when proposed, would not ninety-nine out of a hundred persons have attributed the relative improvement to this change? Yet, obviously, it was due to some unobserved difference in the stock—more early pullets in one pen, perhaps, than in the other. This experience is typical of thousands, only these negative experiences are not often recorded. So we say, experiment, but be slow to draw conclusions from your experiments. Watch the conditions to get them balanced, repeat the test time after time, and even then take every precaution to see how your experience conforms to that of others. Experience is a valuable teacher, but no one person's experience teaches the whole lesson.

The attention of "The Farmer's Advocate" readers is directed to the announcement on page 229 of the Feb. 8th issue, of prizes for contributions on the discomforts and losses caused by bad roads, and the best means of effecting improvement. In all sections there are stores of valuable information drawn from experience on this subject, and the object is to have this presented in concise and readable style for the general good. Read the conditions, and prepare a contribution, which is to reach this office on or before March 1st.

### Educated from the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

What is the matter with Ontario? This has been asked so many times, and so many answers have been given, that it would appear useless to open the subject again. That the rural population is not increasing, has become a serious problem, and the Colonization Department is doing all in its power to bring in farmers and farm laborers from the Old Country.

But where are the boys who were raised on these farms, and why did they leave? Ontario offers great inducement to the farmer to make his home here and cultivate the soil, yet one can find thousands of acres given up to grazing purposes within an hour's ride of London, yielding an annual revenue of two or three dollars an acre, which, if properly tilled, might yield one hundred dollars.

It is no wonder that the cost of living is high, when so few are engaged in producing food. It has occurred to me that the real reason farm life is not more inviting has not yet been mentioned, unless it was by Prof. A. E. Chamberlain, in addressing the Ontario Corn-growers' Association. He said that our rural schools had not kept pace with those in other parts of the world, and that we had made little, if any, improvement along this line in the last twenty years. Mr Chamberlain began as an Ontario school teacher, thirty years ago, and has been interested in educational institutions in several of the Northwestern States, and is well qualified to give an opinion.

Now, we have been patting ourselves on the back and assuring ourselves, and even making the assertion to others, who, by the way, pay little attention to our boasting, that we have the best school system in the whole world. Can it be that we are mistaken in what we think we have, and that our rural schools, instead of being the best, as we are boasting they are, are really not very good—really among the poorest? When I look closely, I find that my own children, thirteen and fourteen years old, have already left the farm in order to secure even a fairly good education. I find that our old schoolhouse, part of which was built over sixty years ago, is just as overcrowded and unsanitary as ever. I find that, while the children who have attended this old school are naturally as bright-looking as any children anywhere, they have great difficulty in passing the Entrance examinations. In fact, many of them never succeed in passing at all.

And yet so much of the time in this common rural school is taken up in preparing pupils for the High School, and none at all given the child to prepare him for his life work, if he is to be a farmer, that, maybe, after all, our school system is to blame for lack of rural population, though really it hurt us to be told so in as many words. Essex Co., Ont. J. O. DUKE.

[Note.—It pains us to think that so wide-awake a man as Mr. Duke has been so irregular or so inattentive a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" as his letter denotes. For at least six years we have been maintaining persistently that our school system was contributing heavily to divert our young people from the farm to professional and other urban employment. We have specified criticism after criticism, and piled argument on argument, but up until a very recent date all we could say seemed to be falling upon ears that were not open to hear. Of course, Prof. Chamberlain is mainly right, even if, perhaps, a trifle sweeping, and anything that has yet been done in this Province towards reform of rural education is but a drop in the bucket. Our whole public-school system needs to be radically reformed, so as to relate it more intimately to country life and work. In the past, the whole tendency has been to educate away from the farm, whereas a rational school system for an agricultural Province would be designed, rather, to educate for the farm—or, at least, not to the prejudice of rural life and occupation. It is indeed time we ceased patting ourselves on the back and began to sit up and open our eyes.—Editor.]

Every time one undertakes to erect a building or effect any other improvement on his farm, he is confronted with the question whether to do it "on the cheap" or creditably and well. The latter almost always costs more than he had counted on, and the temptation is great to skimp a little. As a rule, this course yields the least satisfaction in the end. While there is no justification for throwing money away in superfluous expenditure, it is a pretty safe policy not to slight the utility and durability of a building for the sake of saving a few dollars on first cost. A few extra barrels of cement or a thousand feet of extra frame material may make the difference between a first class permanent asset and a disagreeable, crumbling, sagging, short-lived structure, calling for renewal or repairs.

### HORSES.

A combination of size and speed is what is required in the light-horse sire, with the greatest emphasis placed upon size.

Don't allow the severe weather to interfere with the brood mare's exercise. A few hours in the yard regularly, even if the weather is cold, is far more likely to insure satisfactory results than either continuous idleness or intermittent exercise.

Deep snow can be utilized to good advantage in breaking the colts to be put to work when needed in the spring. There are few better methods of taking the "wire edge" off the youngsters than by driving them through a fair depth of snow previous to hitching them to the sleigh.

Horses do not seem to be injured by reason of being stabled in a cold building, but they suffer perhaps more quickly than other classes of stock from poor ventilation. Damp stables are exceedingly unhealthy, and drafts are to be carefully avoided in the horse barn.

With so many very poor light oats in the country, and with feed as scarce as it is now, some care may be necessary to save the best of the grain for the spring and summer's work. It is a mistake to feed the best while the horses are idle. The spring work is always strenuous, and the plumpest, heaviest oats should be retained for this period.

The automobile would have rather a serious time to make a journey over many of our country roads at the present time, though we have lately seen the attempt made, with disastrous results to the sleigh track. While our good old Canadian winters last, and there seems to be little danger of their disappearance, judging from the weather so far experienced this season, the horse will continue to be the surest, fastest and most appreciated rural motive power for conveyance. Drifts do not bar the horse and sleigh, but they are mountains of quicksand to the motor. Stick to the horse and get yearly satisfaction.

With feed expensive, prospective horse-buyers are refraining from making purchases until the animals are needed for work. As spring approaches, the demand will in all probability increase rapidly. There is an abundance of work to be accomplished in the short time during seedling. Many must have more horse-power, and when that time comes buyers cannot hesitate; they must make their purchases practically regardless of cost. Observers look for prices to rise as spring approaches, and those having the right kind of animals for sale should have no trouble in disposing of them at good prices.

### The Value of the Extended Pedigree.

Different breed societies adopt different forms of pedigree blanks, but most of the pedigrees, when written on these blanks, are comparatively short, and very often lay much more stress upon the breeding on one line of ancestry than the other. For instance, the new form of Clydesdale pedigree places the greater emphasis on the sire's side, while in a Shorthorn pedigree the sire's breeding is practically disregarded, and the dam's ancestry noted. To get over the difficulty, and make it possible to obtain extended forms, the Canadian Clydesdale Horse Association produce these forms filled in on both sides of ancestry for several generations, for the nominal fee of 50 cents over and above the original registration fee of one dollar for the shorter form.

While the sire and dam have the greatest ancestral influence of any generation, the more remote ancestry must be reckoned with. Galton, the great scientist, allowed 25 per cent. influence each to sire and dam, 12½ per cent. each to grand-sire and granddam, and 6.25 per cent. each to great-grand-sire and great-granddam, and so on in geometric retrogression, generation after generation, infinitely. Whether this is correct or not, we are unprepared to say, but it looks quite reasonable, and all are agreed that the influence exists. Poor individuals of no particular line of breeding detract from a pedigree, no matter how far back they appear, and animals of known excellence in breeding value prove a great help in selling the stock, even if they are rather far removed in the pedigree.

Where the extended form excels the short form is that it not only gives one side of ancestry, but both, and each to greater length, than the shorter form. Thus, the dam and sire, grandam and