

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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The Carriage of Pure-bred Stock.

The *Globe*, of Toronto, makes the following pertinent observations in reproducing the remarks of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE upon the above subject, the merits of which must appeal to the good judgment of all who have the well-being of Canadian agriculture at heart:

"Reduced freight rates are now given on pedigreed stock carried to Manitoba, the Northwest, and British Columbia. The concession is of great value, and there seems to be no reason why it should not be granted in the case of animals transported to any part of the Dominion. If the export of cattle is to increase, it will be necessary to look carefully to the quality of the animals, and the introduction of pure-bred cattle ought to be facilitated in every way. The railway companies ought to be farsighted enough to see that a little liberality in this matter is likely to be rewarded by a large increase in their earnings through the growth of the cattle trade."

The concessions desired should apply to other pure-bred registered stock as well as cattle when shipped for breeding purposes. We believe that with some reasonable encouragement in the matter of transportation rates, there should be a general advance throughout Canada in all branches of live stock husbandry, though the necessity for improvement has been more particularly emphasized of late in regard to beef cattle.

Sample Bacon Hogs from Canada.

A leading American experiment station, when it wanted model types of the various modern breeds of hogs for an important feeding test, came to Canada to get them. A couple of months ago a representative of Armour's big Chicago dressed meat establishment visited some of the swine-raising districts of Western Ontario to observe Canadian methods, and shortly after one of our well-known buyers (Mr. D. McIntyre) received an order for a double-deck carload of hogs suitable for what is called the "Wiltshire" brand, and our Chicago correspondent writes us that they have arrived there at a cost, duty and all, of \$6 per cwt., that they dressed well, and ought to make fine bacon. The American authorities and packers are determined to get at the true inwardness of Canada's fine bacon trade, and it is proposed to make a test of this lot with an equal number of the best U. S. bacon hogs, brand all as "American," but keep the two lots separate, and compare sales on the British market. There is no particular secret about the success of Canadian bacon. For a good many years our breeders and farmers have been breeding for the ideal bacon type, and this, coupled with an intelligent plan of feeding and management, has left the Western States hog-man, with his unclean, wholesale methods, and big, fat animals, far in the rear. The moral for the Canadian is that he cannot now afford in any particular to relax the efforts that have proved advantageous in the past.

Comments on Our Christmas Number.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S OPINION.

Ottawa, Dec. 23rd, 1897.

Gentlemen,—Allow me to congratulate you on the ever-increasing value of your journal as an aid to successful farming. Having been a constant reader of it for many years, I can gratefully express my appreciation of its worth. This year's Christmas Number, in addition to its intrinsic worth as an agricultural journal, is a beautiful work of art. With best wishes for your continued success, believe me,
Yours sincerely y,
WM. MULLOCK.

A WORD FROM PRINCIPAL GRANT.

Queen's University, Kingston, Dec. 27, 1897.

Dear Sir,—The Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is remarkably good, and calculated to do good in more ways than one. Yours sincerely,
GEO. M. GRANT.

SHOULD HAVE A WIDE CIRCULATION.

Sir,—We have received a Christmas copy of FARMER'S ADVOCATE, which we have pleasure in looking over. We think you are to be congratulated on turning out such a splendid publication. The writer has often publicly and otherwise expressed the opinion that one of Canada's greatest needs is a higher class of farming; in other words, that brains are needed in farming to a greater extent than the average person seems to think. Papers like yours are calculated to bring before our agriculturists the latest ideas and developments in the various lines of interest to the rural community, and should have wide circulation. W. E. H. MASSEY,
President Massey-Harris Co. (Ltd.)

DOING GOOD WORK.

Ithaca, N. Y., Dec. 24th, 1897.

Dear Sir,—The Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is received. I looked it over with considerable pleasure and profit. It presents an appearance of which you may well be proud. Your paper is doing a good work for the cause of agriculture. Very truly yours,
L. A. CLINTON, Asst. Agriculturist,
Cornell University Experiment Station.

THE FINEST.

Dear Sirs,—Your handsome and very interesting Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has been received. We congratulate you on this splendid get-up. It is certainly the finest agricultural paper we have received this season. Wishing you every success and a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, Yours truly,
Toronto, Ont. J. A. SIMMERS.

BRILLIANT AND INSTRUCTIVE.

The Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE appears in brilliant holiday attire. The cover is an artistic piece of engraving, illustrative of a summer scene on a Canadian farm. A border of wheat sheaves and clusters of apples makes a refreshing picture at this time when the snow lies cold upon the ground. A prettily-colored full-page supplement is entitled "A Group of Famous Prize-winning Herefords," which will be extremely interesting to every stockman. The mineral resources of Canada are reviewed editorially, while contributions by such writers as Agricultural Commissioner Robertson, Mr. John Dearness, Mr. J. R. Craig and Prof. Shuttleworth make the number a very instructive and enjoyable magazine for every person interested in Canada's greatest industry. The publishers of the ADVOCATE deserve the hearty support of an extensive constituency.—*Toronto Globe*.

AN ATTRACTIVE PUBLICATION.

The Christmas Number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is one of the most attractive publications of the season, being filled with useful and interesting reading matter on all points touching the successful farmer's operations. This paper very ably and artistically sets forth the strong features of this foremost of Canadian industries. A powerful plea is made for the extension of improved live-stock rearing. A fine colored plate is given of famous Herefords, with portraits of many other prize-winning animals and familiar farm scenes. Mr. Robert Elliott, the Plover Mills poet, indites "The Farmer's Jubilee," and artistically contrasts 1837 with 1897; while Bengough contributes a catchy poem. Professor Robertson, of Ottawa, extends a hopeful yet canny seasonal greeting, and Mr. John Dearness, I. P. S., a well-known educationist, contributes a thoughtful paper on agricultural education, which should help to solve a difficult problem. Western cattle ranching is admirably reviewed as well as the mineral resources of Canada. The tendency of British agriculture is the subject of a careful article by a Scottish writer. Sugar-beet growing in Germany is described by Prof. A. E. Shuttleworth, and Mr. Palmer, of the British Columbia Department of Agriculture, writes graphically on the outlook for that Province in 1898. This Christmas Number, we notice, goes to all new subscribers for 1898, and the publishers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE (now issued every two weeks) are to be complimented on their effort, and in getting out ordinarily a paper containing easily double the really high-class practical farm matter that can be got in any other way at so low a cost (\$1.00) per year.—*London Free Press*.

A DANDY.

Sir,—I received your Christmas Number last night. "It is a dandy."
Huron County, Ont. ROBERT SCOTT.

JAS. HENLOP, Wentworth County, Ont.: "I am well pleased with your paper. Could not well do without it. It is the best paper I know of for the farmer."

Healthful and Economical Wintering of Horses.

One of the topics discussed in this issue is that of winter feeding and care of farm horses of various classes. It needs no long-drawn-out argument to show the importance of studying the various features of this branch of stock-tending, as it interests every farmer more or less, and the difference in the result between wise and careless wintering may easily amount to a serious monetary consideration. It is not long since horse stock, except of some special class then in demand, was of so little value from a market standpoint, that with idle horses especially, and to some extent with brood mares and young stock, the cheapest means of wintering suggested itself as the most consistent with true economy. The market has changed, however, and at the commencement of A. D. 1898 horses are horses again. It is not necessary to review all the circumstances which have led to present brighter prospects for horse-breeders, as it is enough to say that fair horses in decent flesh are worth good prices. This subject of wintering, as taken up elsewhere in this issue by a number of horsemen in various parts of Canada, throws out in practical form many useful suggestions—the outgrowth of years of experience—which, if not applicable to all our horse-keeping readers, will at least suggest some beneficial modifications in their practice, or else provoke a discussion in which the views of many others may be made public and mutually helpful.

The wintering of idle horses has received, as it deserves, liberal attention. Every farmer has an interest in this branch, as Bellamy's universal and absolute electric power has not yet commenced to take effect in agricultural practice. Almost every horseman has his own peculiar views of what constitutes true economy in feeding any class of stock, but it must be considered reasonable to believe that the maintenance of vigor at the lowest possible cost should constitute an important consideration. What we should seek to get at, then, would be as nearly as possible a maintenance ration, along with sufficient exercise, pure air, and, when housed, comfortable quarters. A recollection of the appropriateness to health of summer pasture will suggest the value of a succulent ration. The freedom of the field has also proved its worth, and to make the best use of food and labor expended, juicy and palatable fodders, as well as liberal exercise, should be granted. To supply the necessary succulence, most farmers have either ensilage or roots, or both, which have given Mr. Rennie, Farm Superintendent at the Ontario Agricultural College, good satisfaction in feeding idle horses. So far as stable temperature is concerned, it should not go much above 50°, so that a tolerably heavy coat of hair would be induced to protect the body from the cold during the considerable time that they should be allowed the liberty of the yard. Where roots are fed and no corn ensilage, a little crushed or whole corn would serve a useful purpose in fortifying the animals against low temperatures, and for rough ration, well-preserved straw will answer admirably, and if cut and mixed with the succulent food and crushed grain it will be relished. Horses prefer, however, whole straw to pick over between meals, the remainder of which may be used as bedding.

It seems unnecessary to add to what our contributors have remarked regarding the care of brood mares. Liberal exercise is highly recommended, and generally considered as most absolutely necessary to a living and well-developed offspring, hence the general recommendation of loose boxes. It need hardly be mentioned that mares nourishing a foetus require rather more liberal feeding than other idle horses. It is also important that possibilities of her slipping on icy surfaces be guarded against, as many foals are lost by falls and strains of mares in various stages of pregnancy.

Young horse stock is quite fully dealt with. The general impression is that box stalls are necessary, and a nourishing ration should be given in order to advance growth and vigor. Skim milk is spoken of for foals, and we may say that our own experience verifies Mr. Scott's conclusions in that regard. We would do little more than emphasize the importance of liberal feeding. Clover hay, boiled grain, wheat, bran and roots should be liberally administered, as well as dry whole or crushed oats once a day. The care of the hoofs, referred to by one of the contributors, is worthy of every consideration. A crooked ankle, contracted heel, or perhaps a ringbone or sidebone, may easily result from a long, turned-up toe, which is very liable to occur when the colts are kept in box stalls and yards the floors of which are deeply covered with manure. The feet should be examined, and, if necessary, treated with the chisel, knife or rasp, being careful to keep the foot level and the frog resting on the floor.

Shoeing, blanketing, clipping, etc., of working horses and drivers are all gone into more or less, and many useful points are suggested. In our own experience we have found much less shoeing than used to be considered necessary to answer admirably. If colts are carefully driven without shoes for the first two years at ordinary farm work it seldom becomes necessary to have them shod in later years, except when road teaming has to be done, or an icy spell occurs in the winter when they have to be driven. We are convinced that

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