

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Address for THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday. (52 issues per year.) 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, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
3. **ADVERTISING RATES.**—Single insertion, 20 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.
6. **REMITTANCES** should be made direct to this office, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. **THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL** shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. **ANONYMOUS** communications and questions will receive no attention. In every case the FULL NAME and POST-OFFICE ADDRESS MUST BE GIVEN.
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.

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

it was mellow and free from unbroken ridges, and, if the test was unsatisfactory, ordering extra tillage of such portions as failed to stand the test, the result being uniformity of growth in all parts of the field and bumper yields, when often the fields of less-careful neighbors showed struggling crops, especially on the higher land, and such as the reaper could scarcely collect at harvest time. The late Professor Roberts, of Cornell, is said to have had such faith in thorough cultivation that when his men reported the land prepared for seed, he would order them to repeat the tillage to make sure it was sufficient.

We are all well aware that in these times of scarcity of help on the farm it is easier to preach than to practice this doctrine, but it is, nevertheless, well worth while to keep it in mind and to put it into practice as far as circumstances will permit. In many cases it is not necessary that a whole field should receive extra tillage, as the lower-lying portions may break up and become sufficiently fined by one-half the work needed on other portions, in which cases the latter should receive extra attention, in order that all may be brought to the proper condition. This is needful, not only for the success of the grain crop, but also for that of the clover and grass seeds usually sown with the grain, and which are costly to buy, and should be afforded the best possible chance for full germination and healthy growth. Seed sown upon hard or lumpy land cannot, in the nature of things, partake of the plant food thus locked up and unavailable, and failure is a certain result, unless an uncommonly abundant rainfall during the season saves the situation, and that is a very uncertain quantity in the average of years.

It is practically certain that, with the practice of greater care in the cleaning and selection of seed, and in the preparation of the seed-bed, nearly one-half the seed sown might be saved, and the crops of this country nearly doubled, for it is a fact that, as a rule, more seed is sown than is necessary for best results were the selection,

preparation and covering intelligently performed; and thus money is thrown away that might have been saved and put to better use. Farmers will do well to consider whether they can afford to continue such practice, and whether it would not be wiser to cultivate less land as a solution of the labor problem, and do the work so much better as to produce more bushels on less acreage. The more thorough the cultivation, the more certain will be the destruction of weeds, which thrive best where the crops are thin and weak, robbing them of needed moisture and appropriating the food that should go to feeding the plants the farmer counts on for returns for his labor and output.

Now is the time to think about this important matter and to prepare for doing the best possible work when the seeding operations commence, by seeing that the implements are put in the best condition to do their work well, and seeing that thorough work is done. Now is the time, also, to consider whether, by securing wider implements, one man may not do as much work as two with narrower implements, and whether three horses may not do as much as four by the use of the old machinery. Economy of time and power should be taken into consideration in the operations of the farm, as in other business enterprises, and the sooner the better, if we would make progress, instead of merely marking time.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

The past year's operations in cheese have demonstrated, say the buyers, that the art of cheese-making in Maritime Canada is at a high pitch of perfection. Our own Island inspector declared, at the Dairymen's Association, that nothing but the highest praise of last year's Island make came over the water from Britain; indeed, not a single serious complaint was made on either side of the water as to the quality of our cheese. This is highly creditable to our makers, who are really a most painstaking and conscientious class of men, poorly enough paid; to our factories and their tenure, and to the patrons, who must supply good milk out of which it is possible to manufacture all good cheese. It proves, too, beyond cavil, that our conditions and climate here, in this Island, lend themselves in an especial manner to the putting up of excellent dairy products. Naturally, co-operative milk-gathering has its defects, compared with the produce of individual dairies, made up with modern appliances and best skill on the farm, to take milk from everybody, and out of it make a good uniform, well-flavored, accurately-colored cheese, by any general system, is evidence of capability from many points of view.

On account of the superior natural drainage which this Province of Prince Edward Island enjoys, we have heard little at any time of objectionable qualities in our dairy products caused by the presence in the factories or curing-houses of undesirable bacteria. At one time—in one year only—the inspector thought we were in the way of meeting the obstacles to this work which other parts of Canada complained of; but, with the employment of ordinary cleanliness and care, there has been no recurrence of the evil, even in the slightest degree. The neighboring Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have little to fear, either, from this menace to their dairying. Indeed, it would appear as if ordinary cleanliness on the part of factory operatives, and a proper care of the sewers and whey tanks, would preclude the possibility of trouble from this source anywhere. The different dairy schools are laying particular stress on clean tenure of factories, and any maker who is remiss in this particular seldom receives a second engagement. A uniform standard of manufacture for Canadian cheese, too, has greatly bettered both the system employed and the prices from sales in Britain.

And still, with all this that is so favorable, we find the Cheese Committee, through its secretary, Mr. C. J. Higginson, reporting to the Chief Commissioner in London on several matters concerning the making and marketing of Canadian cheese, which it would be well for the whole country to take note of and remedy. So far as color is involved, the question of color seems to be subject to improvement. Many men either do not understand col-

oring," says the report, "or are too stinting in the use of the coloring material. Some of the cheese coming from many of the good factories are so pale as to require a strong light to discover if any coloring matter has been put in at all. This should be seen to next season." After all, this seems to be a very trivial defect; but since we want to reach perfection, and secure the price of the perfect article, we must attend to it promptly. The other animadversions bear upon transportation, storage, boxes and weights. They seem to think there has been a great improvement in the way the steamers carry and land cheese lately. The cool-air system gets the credit for this. As to storage, the same favorable report is made, on over-sea storing houses at least. We quote the exact words: "The housing of cheese on this side, at a temperature of 55 degrees during the summer, and about 48-50 degrees during winter months, has contributed in a large measure to the elimination of strong flavor so common in past years. Added to this, the facilities of cold-storage, at a temperature of 42 degrees, offered by the Surrey Commercial Dock Co., have been found advantageous from time to time, the extra charge for this accommodation being fully justified. All these things have contributed to keep Canadian cheese mild in flavor, and its popularity as an article of food has largely increased in consequence. Both shippers and importers are yearly paying greater attention to the handling of their goods than ever before, and they are reaping the benefit of their precautions."

There seems to be a great improvement desirable in cheese boxes. A large percentage, it appears, arrive in Britain in a broken condition, and any cheese landed in such packages becomes greatly depreciated in value. As the common carriers do their work better and more carefully than ever before, the whole box difficulty is attributed to poor material on the part of factory-men. We have not heard whether our Island boxes are open to the same charge, but there is complaint made here of monopoly on this head, and interminable delay in getting the goods when wanted. We have only one factory for boxes; another might remedy the defect. The Department of Agriculture is asked to insist on inspection for boxes in the interests of the cheese business. It is usually hard to get the Government to move in the matter of legal packages and the material entering into their construction, anyway. There are so many conflicting interests. Still, an advisory campaign, at least, could do nothing but good.

This report asks for compulsory stencilling for our cheese export. The system of scribbling in pencil weights on the box, is causing endless annoyance. We had thought that all up-to-date makers were using the stencil, and nothing but the stencil. This should be the case. Whether it would operate in our favor in the markets or not, especially when the output is so extensive, we cannot say; but the Produce Exchange has already a year ago—asked for reliable estimates of the stocks of cheese held in Canada, to be made by a Government official, and now this report repeats the request. "There is a strong feeling in favor of the adoption of this course," it says, "and it would, in the long run, be beneficial to all engaged in the trade, both in Canada and in this country." This is one of the matters, it seems to us, which trade can regulate, as with other commodities, and with which Government interference is altogether unnecessary.

A. E. BURKE.

DOWN TO HARDPAN.

As a means of attracting attention to a new idea, exaggeration may sometimes be of service. Undoubtedly, however, it does more harm than good in the long run. People persuaded to adopt new practices by claims that cannot be made good become skeptical of all new things, and, in many cases, throw aside the method they have adopted in disgust. What agriculture needs to-day, and what it is ready for, as never before, is good, level-headed common sense.

INTELLIGENT APPRECIATION.

In sending my renewal, would say I appreciate "The Farmer's Advocate" efforts in the interest of farmers, and its able editorials. Though much of the matter published does not fit my requirements, I am sure of some thought during the year that is worth several times more than the subscription price.

NATHAN GRAY.

East Elgin, Ont.