

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

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.

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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.

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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LONDON, CANADA.

terials, to determine their fire-resistive properties, were conducted in Chicago, under the supervision of R. L. Humphrey, who publishes the results in a Government bulletin. Brick stood the fire better than any other material, but cement concrete came out of the test very creditably, being second only to brick, and much superior to limestone, sandstone, granite or marble. It was noticed that the richer the mortar used in making concrete blocks, the better they withstood the test. The amount of water used in mixing had a similar effect, the greatest percentage of water giving the best results.

Misfits No Criterion.

The agricultural college is about the only educational institution that is expected by the public to transform into successful men any male members of the human family who may enter it. If a minister fails in his chosen calling, or a physician cannot get patients, or a lawyer is starved out of the legal profession, the average man regards them as misfits, as men who have made mistakes in the choice of vocation. But if a young fellow goes through an agricultural college and doesn't develop into the shrewdest, most successful farmer in the locality; if he fails for any reason whatever, his failure is liable to be laid at the door of the college. Agricultural colleges have had to face this kind of criticism from the start, and a fair amount of it will persist along with the old idea that anybody can be a farmer. But we are gradually growing out of it. About ninety-nine per cent. of the agricultural-college graduates who fail in farming, fail because their inclinations do not draw them toward the business, or because they haven't the proper foundation upon which a successful career in agriculture can be reared. The law school, the theological seminary, or the medical college are not blamed for the many misfits they turn out each year with graduation certificates. Give the agricultural colleges their due. They can't make successful farmers of every student they train, but if a boy has any inclination to agriculture, there are about

a thousand chances to one that he will be better off with the kind of education the agricultural college offers. It is not by the men who don't fit in that the worth of an educational institution is to be judged. Don't make them the basis of your calculation in estimating the boy's chance to become a successful farmer, if he has agricultural-college training. It is unfair both to the college and the boy.

Exemption of Taxation on Improvements.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed in a recent issue of your valuable paper, a communication from the pen of W. C. Good, re the taxation of land values. It is quite an opportune time for the farmers of Ontario to consider and examine the Municipal Assessment Act, and see wherein they have apparently been imposed upon by this nefarious bill (the present Municipal Assessment Act). This is a live issue in this new district of Temiskaming. Here we can see a direct object-lesson to show any person the great wrong this act imposes upon hard-working farmers. Here is the farmer who has risen early each morning, and has wrought late each evening through the fall and winter months, cutting, skidding and drawing the valuable timber to the rivers, the sawmills or railway, striving to do this for the purpose of having a surplus over the amount required by his industrious family for their sustenance and requirements. After this man's endeavor to procure the necessary funds to improve his farm; after he has continued his working early and late throughout the spring and summer months to make his farm and farm buildings look more up-to-date; after this strong attempt by this sturdy farmer to procure the necessary funds to make those improvements that turn the district into a farming center; after all his hard work is accomplished, I can tell you, loyal farmers of Ontario, that it appears both ridiculous and absurd for the assessor to come around the following spring and assess this man higher, in proportion to the work he has performed. In the fall, when the tax collector comes around, and informs him that he has been highly taxed or fined for his hard work of improvement which he has performed the previous year, let me ask does this encourage further improvements, or does it not? I here declare that levying a heavier tax in consequence of these improvements will certainly act as a discouragement to making further improvements, and will tend to discourage our best men, our nation-builders, the very men who make their homes comfortable and pleasant in appearance. These are the men whom this obnoxious Municipal Assessment Act discourages. On the other hand, we will now examine and see who are the men this act of taxing improvements encourages. It encourages the indolent, the speculator; it encourages large corporations that have large quantities of land lying idle, waiting for a rise in price. It really encourages the very men we find in every community, the men who keep back progress, push or improvements of any kind. Give us the single tax, or land values alone, which will encourage the progressive to make more improvements. If our legislators would give us the single tax, you would witness along every concession or sideroad greater progress, men making their homesteads shine with improvements. This single tax, if brought into operation, would certainly be the means of assisting progress, improvement and wealth—just the essentials to make the Province of Ontario one of the most prosperous Provinces in the Dominion.

NEIL A. EDWARDS.

Temiskaming District, Ont.

HORSES.

Winter Care of Working Horses.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Working horses in nearly every respect require different care from those running idle. In a general way, we may sum up their care under the following heads: (1) Feeding and Watering; (2) Grooming, Clipping and Blanketing; (3) Feet; (4) Teeth.

In the matter of feeding, it is always best to water before feeding. Even if the horse is hot, he may drink from a half pailful to a full pailful, if the water is not ice-cold. In the morning, if he refuses to drink first, just give him a small quantity of dry hay and groom him. He will likely take his drink after that, and the remaining portion of his breakfast can be given. This should be composed of good clean hay, from one-quarter to one-half well-cured clover, and the rest timothy. His oats should be ground, and are the better for having one-fifth the quantity of bran added. It is also profitable to put about one-half teaspoonful of raw linseed oil in the grain once a day, or, instead, a couple of single handfuls of linseed meal. The amount of hay and grain should largely be measured by the size of the horse, about one pound each of hay and grain to

each 100 pounds of horse. When the work is hard, more grain should be fed, but since some horses are not as easy kept as others, the matter cannot be managed exactly according to rule. The largest feed of the day should be at night, and the morning and noon feeds, accordingly, smaller. A favorable way to give the night feed is to have the hay cut, and some clean oat straw cut with it; wet it and mix the grain with it. It is better to wet all hay fed, and takes very little time, with the aid of a watering can. On Saturday night, some feed the grain in the shape of whole oats, and one-quarter the quantity of barley, boiled together and mixed with the cut feed, reducing the total quantity of the grain ration. Salt should always be within the horse's reach. It is not wise to give drugs, unless the animal is sick, and then let a skilled veterinary surgeon prescribe. Two or three carrots or a turnip should be given every other night.

The horse should be well groomed before harnessing in the morning, and unless he is very wet at night, he should be brushed again. A clean skin saves food. If he is wet with rain, he should be dried some with a sharp-edged piece of wood or bundle of straw, and his blanket changed for a dry one at bed-time. When hot, he should be allowed to cool some before blanketing. It is a good plan to have a working horse blanketed early in the fall to prevent too big a growth of hair, unless he is of the mustang class, which "will grow six inches of hair the first cold night in fall." The heavy-coated horse should be clipped or singed in the fall in time to let him grow a partial coat before the winter comes on. At night he should have a clean, dry bed of long or cut straw, or flax "shives." A little sawdust in the bottom of a straw bed improves it. Where possible, the bed should be in a roomy box stall, but a small box is better than none.

Of course, he has to be shod. Unless the changing weather, from bare ground to deep snow, or continued hard-frozen, bare roads, make it necessary to change the shoes oftener, this operation should be performed every six weeks or two months. Some feet require it much oftener than this, but not many working horses should go longer. In the case of a sharp shoe, never have the inside cork sharp, and you will have fewer cut feet. "Snow" shoes are best, since, on account of their shape, they do not ball up. By keeping the stall clean, you prevent the shoe carrying filth which is bad for the foot. Drying the feet and legs when they come in wet, is a useful practice in avoiding cracks.

Something wrong with the teeth is usually indicated by a falling off in flesh, dryness of hair, a seeming loss of appetite (perhaps), and unchewed grain and hay in the manure. Here, neither the owner nor a quack should interfere, but consult a competent veterinary dentist.

If one or both animals in the team is a mare with foal, she will need some special care in feed and handling.

A. DOUGLAS CAMERON.

Perth Co., Ont.

Automobiles on Country Roads.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A scene was witnessed on the road near Bridgen, Lambton Co., a few weeks ago, which showed that some owners of autos are not always careful to give a fair chance to the various teams which they happen to meet or pass by on their journey. Two local farmers were driving home, when their attention was aroused by the violent "tooting" of an automobile horn, saying as plainly as the horn could say anything, "Get off the road, don't you hear us coming, and don't you know that we pay all the taxes and do all the road-work?" But the farmers had heard this sound before, and just quietly made the same room on the road that they would have done for any regular farmer.

But look now at the other side of the picture. The same automobile owner met at another part of the road a two-horse delivery wagon, and, instead of blowing his horn, rushing past and scaring the horses, to the astonishment of those who had witnessed their conduct earlier on the same road, the owners brought the auto to a standstill, and waited while the pair of horses were unhitched, and then quietly moved their auto past.

The explanation lies, we understand, in the fact that the two-horse rig was the property of the owner of the auto, and hence his care for the safety of the horses being so entirely different from his treatment of those belonging to merely a poor farmer.

LAMBTON COUNTY SUBSCRIBER.

The Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society has opened a place for the refuge of disabled horses called Horse Haven. It consists of a field of twenty acres fenced in for the use of horses temporarily disqualified from work, especially for horses whose owners are too poor to pay for such accommodation. Sheds and stables have been erected on the land, and veterinary service is supplied by the society. The Haven is about six miles from the city, and in charge of the police.