

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,
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is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
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FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of
New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known,
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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
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 bet-
ter 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 con-
crete 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 edu-
cational institution that is expected by the public
to transform into successful men any male mem-
bers of the human family who may enter it. If
a minister fails in his chosen calling, or a physi-
cian cannot get patients, or a lawyer is starved
out of the legal profession, the average man re-
gards 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 suc-
cessful 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 busi-
ness, or because they haven't the proper founda-
tion 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 Im- provements.

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 con-
sider and examine the Municipal Assessment Act,
and see wherein they have apparently been im-
posed 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-work-
ing farmers. Here is the farmer who has risen
early each morning, and has wrought late each
evening through the fall and winter months, cut-
ting, 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 ac-
complished, I can tell you, loyal farmers of On-
tario, 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 dis-
couragement to making further improvements, and
will tend to discourage our best men, our nation-
builders, the very men who make their homes com-
fortable and pleasant in appearance. These are
the men whom this obnoxious Municipal Assess-
ment 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 im-
provements 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 assist-
ing progress, improvement and wealth—just the es-
sentials 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 too 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 remain-
ing 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, un-
less the animal is sick, and then let a skilled vet-
erinary surgeon prescribe. Two or three carrots
or a turnip should be given every other night.

The horse should be well groomed before har-
nessing 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 nec-
essary 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 ac-
count of their shape, they do not ball up. By
keeping the stall clean, you prevent the shoe carry-
ing 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 in-
dicated 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 Brig-
den, 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 regu-
lar 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, in-
stead of blowing his horn, rushing past and scar-
ing the horses, to the astonishment of those who
had witnessed their conduct earlier on the same
road, the owners brought the auto to a stand-
still, 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 dis-
abled from work, especially for horses whose
owners are too poor to pay for such accommoda-
tion. 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.