

**An Act to Further Amend the Pharmacy Act.**

The above is the title of a Bill the druggists of Ontario are pushing in the halls of the Ontario Legislature. Its provisions, if passed, make possible one of the worst combines from which Canadians have ever suffered. None but a qualified druggist will then be allowed to sell medicines of any kind, not even the most simple, such as castor oil, salts, senna, turpentine, patent medicines, horse medicine, and many other household articles that have been sold in country stores ever since the country was first settled. The general store-keeper is just as capable of selling such medicines as any druggist. The people are not asking for legislation, or any change; they are perfectly satisfied with the protection they now enjoy. The change is not for the benefit of the masses, but for the enrichment of a few who wish for a monopoly.

There are only about 125 druggists in business in Ontario, outside of cities, towns and incorporated villages, while in the same territory there are about 3300 general stores and groceries, in nearly all of which medicines are sold.

Now, this Bill would place in the hands of the druggists, once for all, the power to annihilate a business and ruin any trade inimical to their interests. Could anything more unfair be conceived, or more prejudicial to the interests of others?

Farmers will suffer much inconvenience and be made to pay higher prices for many articles, such as Paris green, etc., if this Act becomes law.

In a recent issue of the Toronto Saturday Night, the editor among other things said: "No matter what we may say about the gentlemen who manufacture binder twine and control the output of anthracite coal, it has remained for the Ontario College of Pharmacy to propose the most bald-headed bill yet presented to the public. People like gall and admire colossal nerve, but I am quite sure that this Act which the Legislature is to be asked to pass will be really too strong a dose for anybody who does not keep a drug store. The druggist has a good deal of protection now, and many of them make considerable more money selling whisky than the majority of people give them credit for. I am not complaining that they charge five or six hundred per cent. profit, for I know that they have rent and many expenses to bear, and the amount sold is not very large and the responsibility of compounding medicines not inconsiderable. He can put up a job with the family doctor, and can afford to pay a commission on all prescriptions sent to him, unless the family doctor happens to be too conscientious. In fact, the druggist who is smart enough to build up a business is smart enough to make a great deal of money, and has unexampled opportunities of doing it. In some countries when you send a prescription to a drug store the druggist must copy the prescription and send the original one back to you, so that you can go to some other shop and get the next mixture if you so desire. In some countries he would be put in jail if he charged as much as he does in this country. In some countries *aqua ad* is never permitted in the prescription; the bottle must go to the purchaser containing nothing but medicine, and the customer can *aqua ad* just as he pleases or according to directions. In this way the public are never deceived by getting five cents' worth of drugs and ninety-five cents' worth of water in a pint bottle. Nobody has clamored for these regulations, many of which would be of benefit to the Canadian consumer.

Listen to the substance of some of the paragraphs of this brazen attempt to corner the medicine business:—(1) Nobody but a registered druggist can sell medicine of any kind. In fact, nobody but a druggist can sell Paris green or London purple within five miles of a drug store conducted by a registered druggist, and nobody can buy it unless he is identified under the Poisons Act and goes through all the performance of buying a deadly drug. (2) Nobody can sell patent medicines anywhere, except a druggist. This strikes at every country store and cross-road postoffice in the province, and is intended to feed the druggist and the doctor. If man, woman or child has a cough he or she cannot buy the well-known remedies without going to a drug store. If a child has cramps in the night, no countryman can buy one of the old reliable liniments or pain killers at the nearest store. He must go for a doctor, or ride until he finds a drug store. (3) When he gets to the drug store he must be identified, if the medicine he wants has any poison in it, no matter how small a quantity it may be; if his purchase is nothing but a pain killer or a soothing syrup it must be labeled "Poison," and he must go through as much performance as if he were buying strychnine. Of course this is intended to kill the patent medicine dealer and give the druggist a chance to make up a prescription of his own, which is more apt to be poisonous and less apt to be carefully proportioned than the stuff that is made in big factories. If a farmer wants to buy Paris green to kill potato bugs he will have to be pranced through the Poison Act, and if he is within five miles of a drug store he must go to it for his material, though a corner grocery is situated on his own farm. (4) A doctor cannot keep a drug store unless he is registered under the Pharmacy Act. In fact, it seems to me that he cannot dispense his own medicines, but must send his prescription to a druggist in all incorporated cities and towns.

Now this whole business is intended to work hardship on the purchasing public and to benefit the druggist. If the Legislature of Ontario has not more sense than to pass it, it will prove itself the

colossal aggregation of asses on this continent." The number of druggists in any neighborhood is very limited, so they would have the power to combine, and fix the prices of necessary goods at excessive rates. They are now seeking this power; if they obtain it, they will no doubt exercise their privilege to the fullest extent. Agriculturists should everywhere protest to their local members; Granges and Patrons' lodges should take the question up in a vigorous manner. The farmers will be the chief sufferers if this Act passes.

**Ontario Veterinary College.**

The closing exercises of session 1892-'93 of the Ontario Veterinary College, were held in the lecture hall of the College, Temperance Street, Toronto, on Friday, March the 24th.

The Principal, Prof. A. Smith, occupied the chair, and among those on the platform with him were:—Lieut.-Gov. Kirkpatrick, Sir Cassimir Gzowski, Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, J. J. Withrow, Esq., D. R. Wilkie, Esq., G. B. Smith, Esq., M. P. P., Dr. Ryerson, M. P. P., J. L. Hughes, Esq., School Inspector, and several other prominent gentlemen. After the reading of the prize and honor list, and the list of graduates for the year, several of the gentlemen present addressed the audience, giving words of congratulation and advice to the students and recent graduates, which were received with frequent bursts of applause. At the conclusion of the ceremonies Prof. A. Smith was presented with a magnificent picture of the graduating class by Mr. H. D. Martin, of Buffalo, on behalf of the class. Prof. Smith, in thanking the students for their gift, spoke eloquently of the kindly feeling which always existed between the students and the different professors.

**Building with Concrete—Errata.**

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

In "Building Concrete" your compositor has made a mistake, which I hasten to correct, as it is a very material one. My formula is, one-tenth lime, fresh slacked, to nine-tenths gravel, not one-quarter to three-quarters, or, as I put it, one shovel of lime to ten of gravel.

Yours truly,  
G. A. LACEY.

**Questions Asked and Answered.**

I wish to inform "Thorah Farmer" that the two-horse tread-power is sufficient to drive the ensilage cutter with twenty-four feet carrier, and also drive a provender grinder. The price of all here is about \$255, each article guaranteed and of the latest and best make. As for wind-mills, I have no faith in them for above purposes.

J. B. ABBOTT, Ottawa, Ont.

In reply to Thorah Farmer's enquiry regarding tread-powers and wind-mills, Mr. A. R. Yuill, of Carleton Place, Ont., writes us as follows:—"We have a sixteen-foot wheel, and it chops all the grain and cuts the feed and bedding for 75 head of cattle and eight horses, but we could do the work easier if our wheel was at least two feet larger. The size of the wheel will depend upon the number of cattle kept." Mr. Yuill prefers the Halliday Standard Windmill, for the reason that it is the only one which gives satisfaction in his neighborhood.

**RECOMMENDS TREAD-POWER THRESHING MACHINES**

In answer to a Manitoba farmer, I would say I purchased a two-horse tread-power threshing outfit last June, and find it a profitable investment. I have threshed over 3,000 bushels of wheat up to date. Its capacity when properly run is about 250 bushels wheat or 500 bushels of oats; it will thresh all kinds of grain. To run it to its full capacity requires three men and two boys and two teams of horses, to thresh from the stook—one man to pitch on, and one to fork to the machine, and one to feed; one boy to take the straw away with the aid of a hay rake, the other to put grain in bags. My experience is that threshing can be done in about the same time it would require to stack with the same help, at a total cost in cash of not more than \$15 per thousand bushels. The two teams should be low, blocky type, and trained to work on power; change off every two and a-half hours. Use the basket racks that require no loading, and two wagons. If "A Farmer" will communicate with me, I will give him all the information he will require.

Yours truly,  
N. W. DAWSON, Whitewater, Man.

**AN ENQUIRY ABOUT BLUESTONE.**

A subscriber, "Sandy," writing from Suthwyn, enquires if bluestoned wheat would be safe feed for cattle or hogs; if it is dangerous, and if salt pickle would not answer the purpose as well.

[Bluestone (sulphate of copper) is sometimes used as a medicine in small quantities, acting as a tonic and astringent, but is a deadly poison in large doses, and great care should be taken that wheat which has been treated with bluestone is not allowed to be eaten by any animal. Salt brine is a preventive for smut in wheat, but as the seed requires to be soaked for some time in the solution and then dried before it can be sown with a drill, it entails much more labor than treating wheat with bluestone, which only requires thorough sprinkling and is ready for sowing almost immediately, and is generally considered a more certain preventive.—EDITOR.]

**STOCK.****Leaner Swine Wanted.**

BY WM. DAVIES.

We are indebted to you in the past for the publicity you have given to our views on the hog question in its various phases, and we again ask for space for the same purpose.

We think it will be conceded that the question of farmers raising hogs is of equal importance with the raising and feeding of cattle. Agriculturists know full well that unless they produce and feed cattle fit for export, they cannot obtain the highest prices. This rule has not been applied to hogs nearly as strictly as to cattle, but every year brings us nearer to a close discrimination. We have pointed out forcibly and frequently in the press that the day is past for consumers eating fat pork; every day makes this more apparent. We do probably the largest business in the Dominion with consumers direct in our retail stores, where we find it simply impossible to sell fat bacon and hams. It is not so absolutely impossible to sell this description in England, but we have to take a reduced price, varying from 1c. to 1c. per pound on the live hogs. At the present time a large proportion of the hogs arriving, though of desirable weights, have been fed so liberally that they are entirely unsuitable for the English or the retail trade, hence they are made into a second-class article which sells at a low figure. We are informed that this has arisen from two or three causes—the abundant supply of food, a scarcity of store hogs, and last, but not least, the fact that many drovers have contracted the hogs at high prices, and the market having declined they have induced the farmers to keep them on for a while.

We again press upon all concerned that to attain the highest price they must produce the animal wanted—a long, lean pig, fairly fatted, weighing from 160 to 220 pounds alive. We are not asking the farmers to do anything against their own interest; so far from that, it has been shown at our experimental stations in Canada, and at similar institutions in the U. S., that it takes less food to make a pound of pork before the animal reaches 200 pounds than after. We are quite aware that this is not the generally received opinion; but facts are stubborn things, and those farmers who have adopted the plan of selling off their hogs at about 180 pounds, and having others to replace them, have told us that they are well satisfied with the results.

**Value of Malt Sprouts.**

Would you please give me directions for feeding malt sprouts or malt screenings. I have never used them, but always have heard of their being very nitrogenous, and to be fed with caution and in small quantities.

A. B. CROSS,  
Brookfield, N. S.

In the preparation of malt, barley is sprouted and afterwards dried, the sprouts are removed, and constitute what is known as malt sprouts or malt dust. This substance is in reality very young barley plants, and, as a rule, the younger a plant is the more protein it contains, and malt sprouts are no exception to the rule, as they contain about 24 per cent. of protein, and have a nutritive ratio of 1 to 2.2. In localities where they can be obtained conveniently they will be found a very valuable food for all kinds of stock, but owing to their high percentage of albuminoids they will be found especially valuable for young animals and milking cows, but should not be fed dry; because of their dry, brittle nature they must be softened either by mixing with watery feed or soaking. Some steep them in water, and then pour over other feed. They are very sweet, and give other feeds an agreeable taste, thus rendering them more palatable. Mr. Cross is quite right in stating that they are a very nitrogenous food, and only to be fed with caution and in small quantities. The digestible nutrients of malt sprouts are as follows:—Albuminoids, 20.8; carbohydrates, 43.7; fat, 0.9; nutritive ratio, 2.2; value per hundred pounds, \$1.33. As compared with oats: Albuminoids, 9.0; carbohydrates, 43.3; fat, 4.7; nutritive ratio, 6.1; value per hundred pounds, 98 cents.

By the above analysis it will be readily seen that malt sprouts serve excellently to bring up the albuminoids of a ration composed of poorer materials to a desired standard.

Swift & Company, one of the largest packing houses in America, have recently decided on increasing their capital from \$7,500,000 to \$15,000,000. They, along with Armour & Co. and Nelson Morris & Co., compose the "Big Three," and virtually control the meat-packing trade of the United States. "The \$15,000,000 corporation of to-day," say the Drovers' Journal, "is the outgrowth of a cattle-shipping business begun by Gustavus F. Swift, which has come into prominence within a dozen years. In 1885 the firm's business was incorporated, with a capital of \$300,000, as an experiment, it was said. A year and a-half later the capital stock was increased to \$3,000,000. In June, 1888, the capital was made \$5,000,000. In August, 1890, the stockholders voted to raise the stock to \$7,500,000, and to place bonds to the extent of \$2,500,000 on the property. At that time a surplus dividend of 32 per cent. on the outstanding \$5,000,000 of stock was declared. This amounted to \$1,600,000. The surplus dividend declared yesterday is on \$7,500,000, and amounts to \$1,725,000.