

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Our Maritime Letter.

As a proof that these imperfectly-written letters are being extensively read, we have received a great number of communications from all over Canada, mostly only too commendatory of any little merit they may evince, and a few critical of some opinion ventured on certain subjects discussed. We particularly welcome this latter class of correspondents, even when they fail to note that we are but speaking for Maritime Canada in these letters, and not unfrequently reflecting conditions which are only verified on our own little Island of Prince Edward. Take, for example, our article on the sheep industry, which has been copied into the local press here, in these Provinces, at least, and generally approved, although we would be still better pleased if the source whence taken were acknowledged, for "The Farmer's Advocate" has every right to share in any credit attaching to them. Some, at least, wished us to understand that they have been walking along lines which we appeared to ignore. The following letter is given in extenso in this connection, both for the information it contains on special phases of the wool market, and also that we may have an opportunity to state generally that we have given no study to this side of the question whatever; never alluded to it in our article; but shall be glad to do whatever we can to help along the bombardment which our friend has been making, should he become convinced that it is in the interests of Canada, either from the economic or hygienic standpoint he so effectively assumes:

Rev. A. E. Burke:

I have just read an article in "The Farmer's Advocate" of the 13th inst., re sheep, wherein you state, on page 1442, "This is a question which requires serious thought, and nobody seems to have given it as yet to the matter." I waited on the Tariff Commission last March, in Ottawa City, and proved to the Commissioners that an average of over 48,000,000 pounds of rags were

imported annually, urging upon them the advisability of prohibiting the manufacture of rags into any commercial article whatever, because it interferes with the farmers obtaining a price for their wool, and, besides, imports all kinds of contagious diseases, more especially consumption. I quoted Dr. Osler as my authority, and also proved by him that they (the rags) contained what is called Rag Pickers' Disease. I am credibly informed by a local M. D. that Dr. Osler prescribes identically the same treatment for this disease as for consumption. I proved by the Blue Books that there were only 2,100,000 sheep in Canada, according to the census just completed; and if this material were shut out Canada would require at least 10,000,000 more ewes to supply the wool market. The farmers want a price for their wool sufficient to pay for wintering each sheep; they would then have the lambs to pay all other expenses and profit. I hope you will have your M. P. send you a copy of the Tariff Commissioners' Report, and then, or sooner, advocate this—lend a hand to help those who are not sufficiently informed to help themselves. I had to appear alone, no society or individual to help; they all said only big guns would be listened to.

Russell Co., Ont.

T. J. GUNN.

When we stated that "nobody had given sufficient thought as yet to the matter," the line our esteemed correspondent hangs his reflection upon, we were certainly talking of a totally different thing. The Maritime Board of Trade, we felt, had not studied the question before it sufficiently to declare just in what way the sheep industry, which it was fully satisfied meant much to the constituency, could be encouraged so as to greatly increase the flocks, improve the individuals and augment the wool product. The question was mooted—had a place on the Agenda Paper—but nobody was there ready to discuss it practically. That was all.

In animal husbandry, as in general agricultural efforts, everything has its periods of prosperity and depression. One cannot always say why, but they come and go as regularly as anything else in life. People will take up enthusiastically one class of breeding or seeding this year, their warmth may subside next, and the next still may see them relinquish it for something else. Man is a feeble being, anyway. Almost mysteriously, we dropped sheep-raising a few years ago, even when anyone could see that, where at all practicable, it was a necessity to Maritime husbandry. There are now signs of an enthusiastic return. In Nova Scotia, good males are being distributed at paying prices by Principal Cumming, of the Agricultural College, or the Government, this fall, and here and in New Brunswick there is certainly a movement towards the extension and improvement of our sheep flocks. This is altogether satisfactory.

As to the matter of imported rags, used in the production of shoddy, and its influence on the wool trade and health of the country, no doubt many readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" are better able to speak than we are; few better disposed to listen and be convinced.

A. E. BURKE.

Circulation and Influence.

Early this summer, Prof. W. H. Day, in charge of the Department of Physics, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, announced through "The Farmer's Advocate" and other farm papers throughout the Province, as well as a considerable number of the most influential newspapers, that his Department was prepared to continue the work inaugurated by Prof. Reynolds, of laying out drainage systems for farmers who requested help. This month Prof. Day casually informed a member of our staff that he had received more applications through "The Farmer's Advocate" than through all the other papers combined. This surely is extraordinary evidence of the circulation and influence of the leading agricultural journal of Canada. All the best farmers in the Dominion read it with a confidence and appreciation reposed in no other paper of its class in America. As a medium for reaching the best class of patrons, "The Farmer's Advocate" has no rival in the field.

HORSES.

Breeding Hackneys.

The demand, which seems to be growing, for larger Hackney horses, is, we believe, not considered by the best breeders and judges of this class to be in the best interests of the breed. The high-standing horse is not generally the most robust nor of the strongest constitution and endurance, and the medium-sized sire with quality, in any class of stock, is usually the most impressive, prepotent and satisfactory stock-getter. This opinion is well supported by a writer in a late issue of the London Live-stock Journal, who says:

"My opinion has been, and always will, until proved otherwise, which it has not up to the present, that if we are to retain character, quality, good flat bone, and, above all, action, we must cling to the stallion that ranges from 15 h. to 15 h. 2 in. high, as it is quite clear that in almost every case where the stallion is 15 h. 3 in. or over, he does not combine all these points, which is essential in a good Hackney. We have only to refer back, and what do we find? That with very few exceptions all our best Hackneys have descended from the smaller sires, viz., Lord Derby II., under 15 h. 1 in.; Danegelt, 14 h. 3 in.; Fireaway, 15 h., etc. Then, take our present-day sires which have established themselves as good getters; they are not the ones 15 h. 3 in. or over. There are three living sires that might be named; one I should not think exceeds 15 h. 2 in., another 15 h. 1 in., and another 15 h. Yet these horses have now stood at £15 15s., £12 12s., and £10 10s. a mare, respectively, for some time.

"What we want is a mare not less than 15 h. 2 in., with good breeding, sound, well-turned limbs, and sufficient length to carry a foal, mated with the class of stallion I have mentioned. Then, I think, we shall be able to put before the public a larger majority of the desired type, with size and more action, than we are doing at present, as the kind of stallion I am advocating has fully proved himself, both in the past and at the present time, capable of getting his stock big enough, providing the mares are of the right stamp."

Horses for the Prairies.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

An eminent Provincial authority has lately stated his opinion that the future of British Columbia lies in her agricultural resources, rather than in the more dramatic ones of her mines and forests.

If this be true, her future is inextricably bound up with that of the advancement of the prairie provinces, for they are her nearest and best market. The authority quoted above had reference to the swiftly-growing fruit industry of the Province, and his forecast is probably a true one. That the East Kootenay Valley is some day destined to have its full share of this industry, is the opinion of every expert who has gone into its agricultural resources, but we venture to suggest that it has an advantage over its friendly rivals of West Kootenay and the Okanagan, which only needs enterprise and a reasonable amount of capital to exploit to great advantage. We refer to horse-raising for the great market now established in the prairie provinces. Ten years ago the writer remembers when the stock ranges to the west of the Upper Columbia lakes were teeming with horses, mostly "cayuses" of a worthless kind, it is true, but vivid evidence of the capability of the Valley to support horses without winter feeding. A huge area of land, estimated, in the Upper Columbia lakes district alone, at some 200,000 acres, is to-day untenanted, save for a few wild cayuses, a few cattle, and the ubiquitous blacktail and whitetail deer. These lands are, for the most part, unfitted for agriculture, being hilly, broken by deep ravines, and incapable of irrigation, yet they are the ideal of the practical horse-rancher. The steep hillsides trim the young horses' feet, and develop his shoulders, test his wind, his sinews and his bone, as no prairie-bred is ever tested, while the malformed or crippled colt which may grow to a four-year-old monstrosity on the plains, becomes coyotes' meat when the first snowfall finds him on some steep hillside. When the grass is at its best in the East Kootenay Valley, it is equal or superior to the famous Oregon bunch-grass. Horses are often taken off the grass and put into hard work, with little sign of the softness so noticeable when the same is done on the prairies.

Why has some one not realized that the conditions are almost ideal for raising the class of horse so much in demand on the prairie? It seems incredible that these wide pastures have been so long overlooked, and even now, the Pulkley Valley, remote from market until the G. T. P. arrives here, is taking up greater attention than its climate seems to warrant to those who know