

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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A Correction Regarding the Importation of Cottonwoods.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

You have made a mistake in editorial, on "The Importation of Cottonwood," 1st page of last issue of ADVOCATE (Oct. 20th). Instead of cottonwood proving disappointing in avenues, it is *Populus perotenses*. The cottonwood in the avenues and elsewhere, so far have done extra well. A few were cut back a little last winter, but soon got over it. The poplars are being replaced by elm. Please make correction in next issue.

I think it would be well to caution those buying cottonwoods from Dakota, to obtain them as near the boundary as possible, as more southern trees kill back for several years. Yours truly,

ANGUS MACKAY, Supt.
Indian Head Experimental Farm.

Eastern Nursery Fruit Trees.

The report is going the rounds of the local press that six carloads of Ontario nursery stock has been distributed throughout Manitoba this season by one firm alone. Doubtless a very large proportion of this nursery stuff has been apples, pears, cherries, and the more tender plums, with a sprinkling of grape vines, rose bushes, etc. It's the old story, people do love to be fooled, and the silver-tongued fruit tree pedlar, with his sample book of pretty pictures, can fool people as slick as any one. We have known people living on farms adjoining those where the very best object lessons of the absolute worthlessness of nearly every kind of fruit tree from eastern nurseries could be seen, give good, liberal orders to the tree pedlar, and then go to the trouble of preparing ground and setting out their worthless purchases. The desire to have fruit trees is most commendable, but a little bit of consideration along with the desire would save good money and much disappointment. Time and again have articles from the best experts in the country on the subject of fruit growing appeared in the ADVOCATE, but, as said before, people like to be fooled.

A Growing Time Indeed.

From month to month we read figures in an astonishing array, showing the growth of Canadian trade. From ocean to ocean progress and advancement are the order, and nowhere more marked than in our prairie provinces. The grain yields, although not equal to the over-sanguine estimates of some enthusiasts, are still abundant, and the average quality high. Still, almost every district has had most emphatically demonstrated, once again, the unwisdom of depending altogether on wheat. Hail, frost, wet harvest weather, and now Hessian fly, are contingencies that must be reckoned with. With the marvellously rapid development of the vast mineral resources of British Columbia and Northwestern Ontario, there has grown up a demand for the products of the farm far beyond our present available supply. Large numbers of horses have been drawn from Alberta ranches to work on railroad construction in the Kootenay, and in teaming supplies and ore between the mines and the railroads. This market has proved a boon to the breeders of heavy horses. The cattle and sheep markets are also benefited by the demand from this same source, while in pork product, domestic fowl, butter, cheese, eggs, etc., Manitoba and the territories cannot begin, as yet, to supply the demand. Carloads of these products have been going right across our provinces, from Ontario to British Columbia, all season. Prices for these products are high, and there is no good reason why the money thus created by their production, should not go to the building up of our prairie homes. And there is no doubt but that future development will be largely along the lines of more general farming. As the conditions of the different sections of country become better understood, the various branches of farming and stock-raising will be developed along

permanent lines. In the wheat districts proper, the necessity of seeding down to grass being recognized, and adopted, will lead to the breeding of stock, probably horses and beef cattle, and in the district where wheat is grown in limited areas, dairying and hog-raising will doubtless find a permanent abode. This year affords a most favorable opportunity for laying foundations of herds, flocks or studs, or adding to what has already been done. Hay and fodder is plentiful, except in a few localities that have had the misfortune of being devastated by prairie fires. Feed grains are also abundant. The breeders of pure-bred stock, encouraged by the brighter prospects, added to and improved their herds and flocks very greatly during the past year, and now are in better shape than ever to supply all demands. There is every indication that a good share of the capital received for wheat this year will be devoted to the purchase of stock, and preparations for giving them the best of care. That we can grow wheat, and of the very highest quality, has been demonstrated beyond peradventure; but that we can grow just as much wheat in the aggregate, and in addition, have a good, safe income from stock raising, also goes without saying.

Preparing for Winter.

It is at this time of year, perhaps more than any other, that the truth of the old saw, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee," is borne in upon us. Plans had been made which, if carried out, would have found us all ready for winter. But, through no fault of our own, the threshing was not got over with as we had calculated, the wet weather caught us in a most inopportune time, some of our help left us, or some other equally reasonable thing happened, and the consequence is, many a man is caught unprepared for winter.

Those having permanent stables, with lofts and feed granaries, which are well-filled, have not so much cause for anxiety. It is the majority who are still "getting along" with temporary shacks, whose work is apt to get so behind as to interfere with the whole winter's work and the profit of stock-raising.

Many a farmer, as well as men in other professions, is sadly lacking in business ability, in arranging and carrying out with promptness the varied tasks that follow each other throughout the season. It is every man's duty to discover his failings, and, knowing by the experience of this year that he has lacked forethought or judgment in carrying out the season's operations, to avoid being caught again in the same box.

It is easy to estimate the gain to each farmer, and to the Province as a whole, by the reduction of one cent per bushel on our export freight rates, but who can estimate the loss to individual or Province that takes place every fall, in most cases avoidably, through the livestock being left out on wet, cold, or frosty nights, or to wander over snow-covered stubble fields in search of food. The shrinkage in flesh, and the check given to the growth of young stock, is unnoticed by many unoblivious farmers, but the avoidable loss, occasioned by lack of a little timely care of stock in the fall, is simply incalculable.

Another common source of loss is caused by inadequate and inconvenient stabling accommodation. In the feeding, watering of stock, or cleaning of stables, a half an hour or an hour's extra time two or three times every day all through the winter is required, on account of some little inconvenience in lay-out or equipment of the stable, that a few hours' work or small outlay of money would obviate for all time to come. Disease and loss are frequently occasioned by over-heated, badly ventilated stables, or unsanitary conditions, lack of drainage, rotting floors, covering a mass of decomposing filth of the most stinking kind. These things can all be seen to *avoid*. An ounce of pre-

vention is worth a pound of cure." During the past year or so the mortality among horses has been very great, a sort of typhoid fever being the most common malady, caused, doubtless, by contaminated water and from the impure air of old rotten stables, from under the floors of which foul gases are continually emitted.

Hundreds of fine barns have been built throughout the country during the past two years, but in a good many the mistake has been made of putting in plank floors, leaving an undrained cesspool underneath, which becomes more deadly every year.

The ADVOCATE will be glad to have an open discussion of barn plans and stable floors, and will, as usual, publish, during the winter months, plans of many improved barns, etc.

There are other things, too, that require attention at this season. Some of the older children could be given a few months' schooling, by which they would be greatly helped in their life's work, whether on the farm or elsewhere. And now that the day's work is shortened and the evenings lengthened out, attention should be given to the supply of reading matter that comes to the home. See that there is plenty of it, and that the *quality* is of the highest.

The ADVOCATE promises no abatement in its efforts to maintain the high standard it has attained in agricultural journalism. The present year has been a most successful one. As evidence that our efforts to furnish the farmers and stockmen of Western Canada with original, reliable and up-to-date matter, our circulation has enormously increased, but every reader can do something to help us in improving and widening our circle of usefulness, either by contributing articles helpful to others, or by getting a few new subscribers.

The Dairy Industry.

Mr. R. A. Lister, President of the R. A. Lister Company, Limited, Dursley, England, manufacturers of the Alexander Separator, well known in nearly all countries throughout the world, and particularly well known in Canada, has just completed his annual visit to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, extending his visit at this time to the Pacific coast. To a representative of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Mr. Lister expressed himself as most favorably impressed with the agricultural outlook of Western Canada this season. After having annually visited this country for a number of years, Mr. Lister is more than ever convinced that mixed farming and dairying is the only ultimate road to agricultural prosperity. He points out that Manitoba has not taken the full advantage of her opportunities for supplying the mining markets of the west with dairy products, and considers that more attention to this industry, together with hog raising, would bring surer and ultimately more satisfactory results to the farmers of Western Canada. The creameries operated by this firm at Morris and Brandon have had a satisfactory season, the output of the latter being 65,000 pounds of butter.

The modern centrifugal cream separator has rapidly displaced old methods of cream separation in almost every country in the world where dairying is being carried on, and this wealthy firm of cream separator manufacturers have built up a very extensive trade in different parts of the world, principally in South Africa, portions of India, and France, besides their Canadian trade and extensive home trade. In Great Britain during the past season, the average sale of Alexander Separators has averaged about 150 per week, which is ample evidence that this strongly-built, clean-skimming and cheap machine is holding its own against all comers. Mr. Lister showed us an order which he had taken with a Manitoba creamery man for 810,000 worth of his separators—doubtless the largest order ever placed for cream separators in Western Canada. This order included the small-sized Alexandras and the Melottes. The Melotte machine being handled by this firm is generally recommended where machines of the larger capacity are required.