

# The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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## How to Fall Off in Politics.

In the horse world the ability of a rider to fall off properly and scientifically is recognized as an accomplishment. Some cling to the saddle until they are ignominiously thrown to the ground, and recovery in such instances is usually slow and awkward. A clever rider realizes that by getting off when the "getting off" is good he is in a better position to recover his mount and his position in the saddle. Modern politicians seem to lack the art of falling off gracefully. They cling to the straps until all hope is vanished, and then fall heavily and for good. If a little bit of skill were exercised in getting off when things were slippery they might come back later on with the crowd cheering, but they tenaciously hold to anything within reach until all public approval is divorced and then—the end or the Senate. Sir John Macdonald was particularly clever in regaining his position when he felt himself slipping, especially in debate, and many a prospective defeat was skillfully changed into a victory for himself by some remark which threw his opponent suddenly to the ground. Those who knew the politicians of years gone by find the present generation rather disappointing, but to the public generally there is evident an inability to see their own mistakes and listen to reason before it is too late.

Capitalists interested in the Grand Trunk Railway want to unload the Grand Trunk Pacific and retain the parent road in Eastern Canada and United States. The Canadian people are becoming better educated in regard to railroading and will not consent to the G. T. R. keeping the doughnut and giving them the hole.

August 1 marks the passing of the grade stallion. Grade and scrub sires in other classes of live stock should be banned by public opinion and the good judgment of farmers generally. Legislation should never be necessary in order to do away with this obstacle to live-stock improvement.

## Work a Blessing and Character Builder.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

I remember hearing a question asked once that was expressed something like this; "if God sent work on man as a curse, what must His blessings be?" I had this idea brought to my mind again pretty forcibly a few days ago through meeting a man whom I hadn't seen since he was a youngster of about sixteen or seventeen years. At that time he was about as gawky and bashful a specimen of humanity as I had ever laid eyes on. I remember his saying, while we were at the dinner-table, "I saw a ground-hog to-day" and the tone and manner were exactly what one would expect from a child of five. The impression of him that I carried away with me wasn't very flattering to those who were responsible for his bringing up, I imagine.

A few years later I heard of him again and it was to the effect that he had developed into a "horse to work". After this I heard nothing more until, as I said, I met him a few days ago. He was seated in his car and his mother, with whom I was well acquainted, evidently took some pride in informing me that this was her son, whom I had not seen since he was a boy of fifteen. I could hardly swallow the fact that it was the same person. To say he was changed doesn't give one the right idea. He seemed to be a new man altogether. As he shook hands with me I saw he had the easy manners of a gentleman and what was more he seemed to have developed all the character that goes to make a real man in every sense of the word. And his physical growth was as marked as the change in every other way. I couldn't help wondering what kind of a miracle had been performed in his behalf, when the thought came to me of what I had heard of the habits of work he had formed and of how it had become second nature for him to be always either at his regular farm work or else fixing up things and making improvements in his general surroundings. "That's the secret", I thought to myself, "there's nothing else on earth but work that could have done it."

And I feel sure I was right. Labor is the best school-master the human race ever had or ever will have. And if we want to call it a physician for the ills of humanity as well, we won't be far out of the way. Whatever trouble we may have on our minds it seems to be able to drive it out and leave us comparatively happy and at peace with the world that a while before we thought had a grudge against us.

I remember reading somewhere that the one great rule of life was to find the job you were best fitted for and then to do it. It's a simple enough rule but those who have made a failure of life seem to be just those who haven't followed it out. They can hardly be said to have lived at all. They have put in a sort of an existence, as I heard a young fellow say shortly after he was married. He said that up to the present he had just been existing but now he was living. Whether he ever went back to a state of mere existence, while his wife was still alive, it is not for us to inquire.

The thing that we are apt to overlook is the fact that it is the work itself and its effect on the character that is the great object. "We get our compensation in the race we run, not in the prize". Any of the by-products, such as money, that may come to us are not permanent, as we all know, but it looks as though character was something we were going to take with us when we moved on.

A man who leaves so much property to his children that they are no longer under the necessity of working, does them more harm than if he cut them off without a dollar. The best plan I have seen put into practice among farmers is to leave a farm, partially paid for, to each of the sons, where it is possible, and let them finish the clearing off of the mortgage for themselves. A habit of work is generally acquired by the time this is accomplished that stays with a man to the end of what is likely to have been a happy and useful life.

Progress and development everywhere seems to be the aim of Nature and it can't take place without work. In those parts of the earth where man has to work for his living, or starve, he has advanced in a short time to a comparatively high state of civilization, but where the climate is warm the year round and food is to be had for the eating, men have remained savages, with no apparent progress in thousands of years.

I remember when I was young hearing some people say that if they had as much money as a certain person they would never work again. They never thought that the fact that they were forced to work was the greatest god-send that had ever come to them. Like a good many of our other blessings this one came to them in disguise.

There seems to be two ways of doing work. The way some people go at it is apparently to get it done and off their hands. Others seem to take a pleasure in it and like to look back on a job well done. These might be called the artists in their profession, whatever that profession might be. Their aim is not only to get the work done but to do it in as perfect a manner as possible. This is the spirit that takes the drudgery out of scrubbing floors and hoeing corn. When a clean floor or a clean field is the object in the mind's eye, work takes on an interest that nothing else can afford. The finished task usually shows too, the result of these different conditions of mind.

The same thing can be noticed with hired help. One man keeps his eye on the boss and gets out of as much work as he can. He's on bad terms with his job. Another man knows what should be done and does it with the idea of accomplishment. He looks on his employers interests as partly his own. We all know which of these men is likely to be in business on his own

account at some future time. Character was being developed by their ideas of work and the way they carried out these ideas, and the result is that one grows into the successful man, while the other stays where he always was, at the bottom of the ladder. He looks on work as an unmixed evil while his companion looked on it as the one way by which he could get all that was best in life.

One of our old school-books had a rhyme taken from one of the poets that went like this:

"If little labor, little are our gains,  
Man's fortunes are according to his pains."

Nature's rewards and penalties were never better summed up than in these two lines.

## Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

In response to the request of a reader of this column I give the following notes on Ginseng.



Root of Ginseng.

Ginseng belongs to the Aralia Family, that is to the same family as the Wild Sarsaparilla, Spikenard, and Hercules Club. It is a smooth perennial herb which grows to a height of from eight to fifteen inches. The root is spindle-shaped and may be either simple or branched. The petioles, (leaf-stalks), are from one and a half to four inches in length. The leaflets are usually five in number, occasionally six or seven, somewhat oval in shape, toothed on the margins, pointed at the apex, and thin in texture. The peduncle, (flower-stalk), is slender, from one to two inches in length, and the flat-topped flower-cluster bears from six to twenty flowers. The flowers are small and greenish-yellow in color. The berries are flattened and are bright red in color.

The above description, together with the figure here presented, should be sufficient to enable anyone to identify the plant, but there are two other species of the Aralia Family with which it is sometimes confused. One of these is the Dwarf Ginseng or Ground-nut, a plant from three to eight inches in height, with from three to five leaflets, which are not stalked as they are in the Ginseng, and which are much blunter at the apex. The flowers of this species are white and the fruit is yellow. The root of the Ground-nut is globular in shape and is pungent to the taste. The other plant which is sometimes taken for Ginseng is the Wild Sarsaparilla. This species has a long root-stock, and from this spring the leaves and the naked flower-stalk. The leaflets are three or, more usually five, in number and are sharp-pointed and finely toothed on the edge. The flowers are small and greenish and the berries are purplish-black.

Ginseng grows in the hardwood forest, the forest of sugar maples and beeches being its favorite habitat. In some localities it was at one time fairly common, but in most places it has been so much sought after by ginseng-gatherers—mainly trappers and Indians, who early learned to recognize the plant—that it is now either extinct or very rare.



Leaf of Ginseng.

A few years ago there was a rage for the cultivation of Ginseng, and firms who handled the seed set forth in their advertisements most alluring prospects of quick and handsome returns. Many tried Ginseng growing, in most cases with absolute lack of success. Some tried to grow it in gardens, but it is a plant of the woods, and demands leaf-mold and shade, and all such attempts of which I have any knowledge were failures. Some who knew more about the plant tried growing it in the woods, and the best and most prosperous-looking Ginseng plantation which I have seen was one owned by an Iroquois. In this plantation he had several thousand plants, arranged in beds of deep leaf-mold in the woods. He had been growing the plant for several years, but so far had sold no roots, using all his plants to produce seed and increase his plantation.

There is apparently no real medicinal value to the Ginseng root, but it has commanded a good price in China, where it is used for its supposed medicinal value.