

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. (52 issues per year.) It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
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LONDON, CANADA.

Agricultural College, Guelph, has been carrying on some valuable investigative work. Prof. Harcourt has consented to give us the results of his investigations in the form of an article, and is prefacing it with two or three of a more general nature on the soil, its formation, constituents, etc. We especially commend these articles to the attention of our readers, first, because of the practical importance of the subject, and also because the writer is one whose opinions may be relied upon. Prof. Harcourt is a farmer first, and a scientist afterwards. He is a thorough worker, and his conclusions are circumspect, practical and sound.

The Finger Post.

The attention of our readers is directed to the Publisher's Announcement at the top of the first column on the second page of reading matter in every issue of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." It is a new one, and will repay perusal. Each of the thirteen paragraphs contains information of value. Study them carefully. They tell plainly and frankly for the benefit of our readers just how the paper is published and about correspondence. No. 8 will explain why some of our friends have been disappointed over not seeing certain questions answered or communications published—name and P. O. address not given. No. 9 will give a clue to some other cases of that kind. But the one to which we would call particular attention at this season is No. 12. Read it, mark it well, digest it. Then you will certainly do something that will be mutually helpful and beneficial to the cause of Canadian agriculture.

Should Not Be Without It.

I received my premiums, Reading Glass, Microscope and "Successful Farming," and I am highly pleased with them. The farmers of the present day cannot well afford to be without such a paper as "The Farmer's Advocate." Wishing you every success.
G. H. HARNETT,
Grenville Co., Ont.

Less Wood and More Fruit.

The article on "Pruning," in our Garden and Orchard Department, is the second of a short series by Linus Woolverton, a well-known authority, that will repay careful study. The subject is presented so lucidly that even those who have never had much to do with fruit culture may easily grasp the principles and apply them. Pruning is by some regarded as an art that requires long training and a degree of heaven-born genius, whereas it is really nothing more than a systematic cutting back and thinning of superfluous wood to keep the vine, bush or shrub within convenient bounds, and force more of its strength into fruiting. While it affords scope for the exercise of considerable judgment born of experience, anyone with a reasonably good head can learn to prune his own trees better than the quack pruners who travel about the country looking wise and playing havoc with orchards for a consideration. In fruit-raising sections, pruning is regarded as an everyday operation, like plowing, but in the general farming districts it is irregularly done or neglected altogether by a great many, and usually those who do essay to prune are afraid to cut out enough. A hand rule for the amateur is "to cut out what he thinks is sufficient, then shut his eyes and take out about as much more." While there is such a thing as pruning too severely, the amateur practicing on one of these old bushy-headed orchards would be pretty sure to leave enough wood after following the above guide (though, of course, we do not recommend doing it with his eyes shut). Referring to the article on "Pruning the Grape," in "The Farmer's Advocate" of February 8th, note that the Kniffen system, commonly followed in the Niagara Peninsula, calls for but two or four—and Mr. Woolverton might have added that some growers leave six—arms for each vine. These vines are set about every eight feet, in rows perhaps ten feet apart, and a novice, viewing a pruned vineyard, involuntarily exclaims, "Where will the grapes grow?" But these vineyardists know that the pruned vine yields more abundantly, produces larger bunches of finer vintage, and is less liable to fungous diseases. We have seen many a bunch of Niagaras, a dense-clustered variety of white grapes, that weighed a pound or more to the cluster.

The following instance of the economy of pruning will appeal to those whose cherry trees were ravaged some years ago by the black-knot. Some half dozen sour cherry trees had been overrun with this fungus, and to the writer fell the task of cutting it out. Despairing of making a clean job any other way, he headed the trees back, leaving on each only three or four forked stubs of branches, and a very few knot-free twigs. Some hen manure was spread about the trees, and they received an occasional spraying with Bordeaux. The summer following the pruning they made a good growth of fairly clean wood, and the next year bore a better crop of cherries than had been gathered from them for many a year. To-day those trees are thrifty and in good bearing. The experiment was repeated on a large number of trees owned by a friend, to his utter dismay, but with equally satisfactory results in the end.

Pruning is not the only essential in successful fruit culture, but it is a prime requisite, and if more use were made of saw, pruning hook and shears—especially shears, for once an orchard has been trimmed into shape there is little occasion to use the saw—many of the now bushy, fungus-infested orchards would astonish their owners with excellent crops of fruit, and become one of the best-paying propositions on the farm. A keen edge to the pruning shears, power to the pruner's elbow, and courage to his heart!

Now is the Time.

For what? Well, to let people know who are constantly sending in enquiries, that you have for disposal some extra good pure-bred live stock, which progressive farmers are always on the lookout for at this season, pure-bred poultry or reliable eggs for hatching, some choice seed grains or potatoes; or, perhaps, a farm to sell or lease. Or do you need something? State it in the "Want" column, and you will soon be supplied.

HORSES.

The Breeding of Coach Horses.

In a former article I have reviewed briefly the claims of the various stallions of the imported and native breeds of horses likely or not likely to produce coach horses when coupled with the ordinary mares of the country, as found in the hands of the average farmer, and have tried to show that, as a general rule, the Hackney is likely to give the most satisfactory results. Of course, much depends upon the class of mare, many farmers finding it to their advantage to use for general farm work mares more or less mixed with draft blood. In such cases it would not be at all probable that high-class coachers could be produced by mating these mares with a stallion of any one of the coaching breeds, and the only method likely to produce the desired result would be to use a Thoroughbred or running horse, and right there is where one runs up against a snag, for no sooner do you mention Thoroughbred than the average American farmer at once asserts, "I don't want to raise a running horse." But where the mare to be bred is of the light or roadster type, and of fairly good size, my advice is, use the best Hackney stallion available; by doing so you will get enough of size, with the necessary action, conformation and style, without which no horse can be properly termed a coach horse.

I have, in many cases, had farmers come to my place with a couple of mares to breed, one of as good a type to produce a coach horse, if properly mated, as you could well wish to see, the other showing unmistakable evidence of draft blood, weighing from 1,300 to 1,500 pounds, and consequently a good sort from which to raise a good draft horse, and, strange as it may seem, after asking the question, "How do you wish to breed?" I would be answered: "Well, I guess I will breed the small mare to the big (i.e., draft) horse, and the larger mare to the Coach horse," thereby hopelessly mixing things, and making it little short of a miracle to get anything of "class" in either case. On expostulating with the owner of the mares on the inadvisability of such a course, I have often been told, "I guess I pay the bill, and know what I want—something for my own use." This is one of the greatest fallacies, and one of the main causes of the large number of nondescript horses in the country. If any measure of success is attained a definite object must always be kept in view. Breed for the market, and even then you will always get enough misfits to go round the family for "its own use."

I am not at all surprised that so few really good coach horses are raised. So many men in the great breeding centers of the middle West have the idea, first of all, that a coach horse must be 16 hands high or over, whereas the requirements of the present day call for a horse from 15.1 to 15.3 hands, and any New York dealer will tell you it is the snappy, thick-set horse, with action, around 15.2 hands in height, that is most in demand, and that he does not want the leggy, 16-hand (or taller) horse at any price.

This is the age of quality, and without it a horse is hard to sell. Carriages are more lightly built than formerly, and consequently do not need such large horses to draw them. In addition to good looks, a horse must show his ability to "step away some." Extreme speed, of course, is not necessary, but a good 12-mile-an-hour gait is required. Most half or full-blood Hackneys can show such a gait, and at the same time do it handsomely and showily; and with their round form and high action, always look as if they were on "dress parade," and to me, that is indispensable in a coach horse.

Twenty years ago I was laughed at by some of the most intelligent business men of the town in the middle West where I lived, when I first mentioned and described the "tight little horse" with high action that has forced his way to the front in spite of all kinds of opposition and mud slinging. I then made the prediction that the people would be crazy for that type of horse in ten years from that time. Whether that was the case or not, history tells. Had the Hackney not been so good a horse as he is, there never would have been so much jealousy shown. Some people seem to think we are on the eve of a horseless age, on account of the increasing number of automobiles now in use, but some of the best-posted coach-horse men in the country evidently do not share this opinion, if we may judge by the picture which appeared recently in the New York Sunday papers, of a colossal structure, to cost \$750,000, to be erected not far from the 59th Street entrance to Central Park, and devoted almost exclusively to the coach-horse business. Personally, I may say I share this optimistic feeling, and have little or no doubt that, as long as our time lasts, good coach horses will be in demand. To me there is a certain exhilaration in controlling a team, or a pair, of spanking good horses, that no mechanical device could ever produce in my system, and may the good, healthy,