

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties,
handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and fur-
nishes the most practical, reliable and profitable informa-
tion for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-
makers, of any publication in Canada.

2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland,
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one side of the paper only.

11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change
of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.

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.

13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter con-
nected with this paper should be addressed as below,
and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Canada's live-stock industry, the industry of
which until just recently everyone spoke in glow-
ing terms, believing it to be paramount. True,
we have made progress, but not the strides we
should have made. While the number of dairy
cows has increased substantially, the average milk
flow shows no material advance in the past ten
years.

* * *

The real cause for concern, however, is the
shortage of beef cattle. The dairy cow has
gained ground at the expense of the beef animal.
Producers will raise that which pays best, and
milk of late has brought better returns than beef.
The trouble has been that breeders of our beef
breeds have not paid due attention to the milking
propensities of their stock. They have looked
with a partial eye to the production of the ex-
treme beef type. Breeders of pure-breds have en-
deavored to produce sires for the Western range,
having no concern about milking qualities. The
result is our beef cattle are poor milkers, and eco-
nomic tendencies of the past few years have made
them less profitable than the dairy cow.

There is another cause. Many Canadians have
become "wheat crazy." The annual harvesters'
excursions serve to instil this into many minds.
Men are transported West, get "the fever," and
remove there to follow exclusive grain-farming. All
this works against the live-stock industry, and
should be discouraged. Sooner or later there
must be a return to the stock, or "good years"
will vanish, and prosperity receive a staggering
blow.

* * *

What is the remedy? There seems to be none
better than mixed farming. The average farmer
is better adapted to this form of work than to
the special lines. Specializing requires a special

man as manager. The hope of the beef-cattle in-
dustry lies in the production of more big, thick,
deep, strong cows, capable of giving good returns
at the pail, and at the same time raising calves
which, when ready for the block, make desirable
carcasses. This class of cow is extremely scarce
in the country to-day, and until she becomes more
common, it is doubtful whether the beef industry,
as a paying proposition, can be made to yield re-
turns which compare favorably with dairying.
Breeders have the matter in their own hands. The
change cannot be accomplished in a year; it will
require several years. A beginning must be made,
and made immediately, if any good is to result in
the near future. The old idea of beef and beef
alone must be banished from the breeding work.
Breeders should select sires from milking strains,
and keep a record of their cow's work at the
pail. The old adage, so often applied to dairy
cattle is intensely applicable here, "Breed, feed,
weed." The dual-purpose cow must come, if beef
production is to regain its popularity in Eastern
Canada as a paying industry, compared with
dairying; otherwise, the price of beefsteak must
soar higher and higher, with restricted consump-
tion as a consequence. It is possible to combine
the qualities of milk and beef. Try it. An ag-
gressive, systematic, educative live-stock cam-
paign is necessary. Look into the conditions in
your own locality, and commence to improve now
by careful selection. Increase the live-stock out-
put of your farm, and thus increase your annual
income, and make all the years "good years"
for yourself, as well as for Canada.

Thirst for Knowledge.

The best things in the world are wasted upon
those who have no appreciation for them. Art
means nothing to a person without a taste for
art. The rarest table delicacy would only repulse
an invalid with no appetite for food. So with
knowledge. The choicest gems of agricultural
literature appeal in vain to one who has never
learned to prize them. Before agricultural science
can interest one deeply and spur him on to achieve-
ment, he must by some means acquire a genuine
thirst for knowledge—must hunger for it as a
laboring man for meat. Let a man earnestly de-
sire knowledge, and he will read agricultural litera-
ture with avidity, as a refreshing, satisfying men-
tal diet. Without desire, his reading will be
casual and listless, his understanding meagre, and
his perusal readily arrested by a few unusual terms
which a dictionary would freely explain. How can
this relish or eagerness be developed? With some
it is hereditary, or is fostered by the early home
influence. With those less fortunately born it may
often be aroused by simply dipping in. Wade into
your papers and books, reading up first on the
lines which most appeal. As you read, practicing,
also, meanwhile, the great book of agricultural
science will unfold, each page more fascinating
than the last. The subject is immense, and will
never be exhausted. It is a life study, and a life
study well worth while. Get interested. It will
pay in profit and pleasure both.

On A Shaky Pedestal.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Contrary to what you infer from my letter,
published in last week's "Farmer's Advocate," I
have read with much interest your articles, from
time to time, on educational matters. Now, I
did not mean ordinary mortals like you and I,
Mr. Editor, when I said, "We are patting our-
selves on the back and assuring ourselves that we
have the best schools in the world." I know
that you have long known that it is not true, but
I meant our people as a whole, and our legisla-
tors and educators, in particular.

Now, at the Ontario Corn-growers' Associa-
tion's annual convention, held at Tilbury this
year, this matter of rural education was given
considerable attention, and one of our most fore-
most educators defended the educational system
of Ontario, and said it was the best in the world,
"Minnesota or Georgia not excepted." Our case
is very hopeless, it seems to me, if "we" have
placed ourselves on a pedestal and can't come
down.

It may be that you and I are not competent
to pass an opinion on educational matters, but I
ask anyone to look at the results of our systems.
See the farmers' boys flocking to the cities to

work in factories and be street-car conductors, and
the whole world crying for more food and com-
plaining of the high cost of living. Or see those
who do stay on the farm following in the same
old rut, making the same old mistakes, their
fathers did.

The Canadian Seed-growers' Association, held
in Ottawa lately, was addressed by Rufus W.
Stimson, of Boston, Mass., on the subject of "Vo-
cational Agricultural Education for Boys and
Girls," and some very comprehensive plans, such
as are being followed in Massachusetts, explained.
"We" were not very favorably impressed, how-
ever, and "we" said that, while those plans
might be good in the States, our system of rural
education was good for us in Ontario. On a
pedestal, you see.

I was pleased with Dr. Jas. Robertson's com-
ment on the subject, however, when he said that
the gentleman from Boston had been able to give
our people some good pointers for 1912, and it
was up to us to "show them" in 1913. Will we
do it? J. O. DUKE.

Essex Co., Ont.

School Systems Too Academic.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In the February 8th issue of "The Farmer's
Advocate" I noticed an editorial on the rural-
school teacher, upon which discussion was invited.
Like many other subjects connected with agricul-
ture, it apparently receives but little deep thought
from the Government. Some half-hearted at-
tempts are made to remedy existing evils, but they
are soon abandoned as impracticable.

Disregarding the home influences, the training
of the rural-school teacher begins with the Gov-
ernment, the framers of our educational system.
The fundamental question which these men should
ask themselves is: What is the object of rural
education? The answer, of course, is: The mak-
ing of useful members of society, especially of
rural society. Then, the next thought has refer-
ence to the means. Now, a view of the public
and High School curricula at once suggests that
our educators are, like the philosophers of ancient
Greece and Rome, striving to raise mankind above
their physical necessities, rather than adminis-
tering to those vulgar wants. Many of the subjects
taught are merely to enrich the mind, not to aid
in the alleviation of human suffering, whilst those
subjects which would cultivate the intellect, and
at the same time enable rural men and women to
lead more useful lives are thought worthy of only
a secondary place in our schools. Reading, writ-
ing, arithmetic and nature study, with reference
to agriculture, are the most important subjects of
the public and High School Course. But our
education experts say, "Arithmetic is too pro-
saic, too matter-of-fact, to receive much attention.
We will take it off the junior teacher's examina-
tion." And the result is our rural-school teachers
are sorry specimens of arithmeticians. As for
nature study, they may talk eloquently on the
anatomy of the butterfly, the frog and the snake,
but what do they know of that part which affects
the industry in which their pupil will afterwards
engage?

The last step in the training of the rural-
school teacher is the Normal. Here, again, there
is so much that is of no practical value that the
teacher-in-training must spend nine months in get-
ting what he could easily acquire in five. If all
the time spent in the study of useless theories,
such as "Is the basis of habit physical or men-
tal?" "Can there be a pure conception?" etc.,
were eliminated, a five months' Model course
would be far superior to nine months spent at
Normal.

Another point which is a puzzle to me is why
are Model-trained teachers allowed to teach five
years, without any previous experience, and then
be compelled to stop as soon as they have become
proficient in the art? The only result is to make
teachers scarce. Certainly, nine months more
spent in poring over these things, which are
speedily forgotten, cannot be productive of great
good. JAMES LOVE.

Huron Co., Ont.

With the best of care, it is hard to prevent a
foot of silage adhering to the silo walls during
the severe weather we have recently experienced.
At the first sign of loosening from the walls, this
should be pried off with the ensilage fork, and
thrown down into the stable or feed-room to thaw.
Loss of feeding value, and even danger to the
health of the stock, may result from carelessness.

Gifford Pinchot, Washington, President of the
American Conservation Association strongly favors
the removal of forestry appointments from po-
litical control, sufficient public money to man the
service, trained men and Federal control, if the
nation is to save its resources from grasping
monopolists.