

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## Politics and Newspaper Postage.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE never has and does not now object to a fair and equitably levied rate of newspaper postage. Being business enterprises, it is no more than right that publications should pay for the service which the government renders in carrying them from one portion of the country to another, though there is room for fair argument that they should be encouraged rather than discouraged, on the ground that the public is advantaged by the spread of knowledge. We believe that the public business of this country should be conducted upon business principles, and it would greatly simplify and lessen the cost of the conduct of public affairs if governments would not only do that, but curtail rather than expand their functions, which latter seems to be the patronage-creating fad of the present day. Prior to July 1st, 1899, papers had been carried free through the Canadian mails for a considerable period of time. With their increasing circulation and the increasing bulk of a good many newspapers, in imitation of the ponderous and trashy Sunday "yellow" journals of the United States, the burden upon the postal department at last became simply intolerable, and the Postmaster General of the present Canadian Government (Hon. Wm. Mulock) undertook to deal with the subject, and the result was a bill whereby papers were charged  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cent per pound for the first six months of last year, and thereafter  $\frac{1}{4}$  a cent per pound, except those circulating within a twenty-mile radius of the office of publication, which go free, in case of papers located upon a lake, their zone was measured 40 miles on one side of the office. This absurd zone system, making fish of one and flesh of another, was a sop to the country weeklies and the unfortunate political price paid for getting the measure through Parliament, because we believe the original intention must have been to treat all alike. It involved taxing the journals of greatest merit, circulation and influence, for the benefit of the little organ of the country M. P.; and further, while a protective system was continued by the administration for large numbers of enterprises, United States sheets, big and little, good, bad and indifferent, had the free run of the country. To the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the 20 mile zone exemption is a mere flea bite, and no relief from the unjust imposition of the bill. Edited for the improvement of all branches of agriculture, being practical in its teaching and of superior merit, its circulation extends, naturally, not only into every part of the Province of Ontario, but throughout Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the Northwest, and British Columbia; also very generally through Michigan, Ohio, New York, Maine and many other States; and Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and India, as well as several European countries; in fact, hardly a country can be named where farming is successfully carried on by people who understand the English language, that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is not received and highly prized for its helpfulness. So far as Canada is concerned, for 34 years the paper has steadily associated itself with the advancement of this great industry, and if the whole truth were told there is no doubt that its work and the knowledge and stimulus imparted to the public have done more for the real progress of the farmer than all the Government institutions and projects that have ever been set afloat; and this can be said without in any way reflecting on the excellence and usefulness of much that scientific research, experimental work and demonstration has accomplished. To the outside world the pages of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE have been a constant reminder of the splendid achievements of agriculture in Canada, and yet this publication is discriminated against in favor of the purveyors of local gossip and politics, while from Ottawa great quantities of political lit-

erature is "franked" at the public expense, doubtless on the ground that it contains information for the public.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per pound rate having been protested against as onerous, the Postmaster General at the session of Parliament just over introduced an amendment to reduce the postage on newspapers within the provinces in which they are published to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent per pound, while still charging half a cent per pound on those going from one province to another or out of the Dominion, and as we understand it, leaving the 20-mile zone still free, so that the ADVOCATE would have had the small free area, the provincial  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent per pound rate, and beyond that the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent rate—variety enough, in all conscience. The House of Commons passed the bill, but it was thrown out by the Senate bodily, for they could not modify it, it being held that an amendment would be one affecting revenue. If they have not the power to amend, they should have roused themselves a year earlier and thrown out the original measure. As a result the old injustice is still perpetuated.

It is lamentable that the postal administration that has shown such commendable energy in many directions, and has to its credit the introduction of the two-cent letter rate boon and Imperial penny postage, should be marred by a retrograde and petty newspaper postage policy.

## Summer Institute Meetings.

Our first meeting was held at Russell at 8 p. m. Between 7 and 8 o'clock it began to rain heavily, and continued more or less for over three hours. This, we were given to understand, was the first rain of the season. The crops in this locality are rather late on that account. Our meeting was poorly attended, about 12 being present. Mr. Luttley Butler, instructor in the Dairy School, in the course of his remarks, urged the farmers to give more attention to dairying, and predicted that it would eventually supersede wheat-growing. He favored winter dairying as affording the best market. The process of buttermaking was followed and a number of pointers given as to each step. The use of the separator was urged, the speaker maintaining that the cream secured was one third more than by the deep-setting system. This cream, however, would have to be cooled to 40 or 50 degrees or it would ripen too fast. The deep-setting can with tap in the bottom was denounced. If deep-setting cans are used at all, the cream should always be skimmed from the top. The advantages of a course at the Government Dairy School were urged. The course which occurs in the winter is entirely free and is of great benefit to anyone wishing to become acquainted with the best methods of dairying. Mr. A. P. Stevenson then addressed the meeting on the subject of fruit growing. He laid down some general principles to be observed, and then dealt with the culture of each kind of fruit individually. He recognized as a primary essential to success in any kind of fruit growing in Manitoba the absolute necessity of having some kind of wind-break. The more convenient method of cultivation is always to have everything set in rows so as to cultivate largely with the horse. Novelty in fruit were denounced generally as frauds, only the old, well-tested being worth trying. Considerable success had been had with strawberries, and the Wilson, Crescent and Gandy had been found to be the best varieties. The strawberry rows should be planted about 4 feet apart. Some persons failed to receive fruit from their plants on account of planting only pistillate varieties. In planting it was urged that male and female varieties be planted in alternate rows. It is necessary to mulch with straw in winter. Two crops of fruit is all that can profitably be taken from a strawberry patch before plowing down. Success in the culture of gooseberries and currants was briefly put in three words: Manure, prune, cultivate. These fruits will stand a great deal of manure and pruning. Unless the bush is properly pruned the fruit will be small. A general rule for pruning is to cut out the darkest wood, which is the oldest. All the vigorous new shoots in the center of the bush should each year be

pruned out, except two or three. Never try to grow these fruits on one stem, tree fashion. If the borer got into that stem the bush would be killed outright. Currants and gooseberries should be planted 4 feet apart each way. In planting out red raspberries always cut the top off the plants. These should be set in rows 8 feet apart. The raspberries might be allowed to thicken out to form a row of stalks, 18 inches wide, properly pruned, but the suckers should be kept down between the rows. In the way of plums, there is not a single variety now grown in Ontario that is any good at all in Manitoba. The same may be said of cherries. It was advised to select a tree of the native plum which bears superior fruit; mark it during the fruiting season, and in the late fall take out cuttings of the surface roots for setting out the following spring. The planting of pits gives no satisfaction, as the seedlings nearly always turn out to be other and poorer sorts. The growing of crab apples has passed the experimental stage in some parts of Manitoba. The Transcendent and Hyslop are the best. The speaker found it necessary to wrap the trunk of the trees during winter with gummy sack-

ing.

A vote of thanks was tendered the speakers at the close of the meeting.

BIRTLE.

This was a lively meeting, with some good discussions on creamery matters. About thirty were present.

SHOAL LAKE.

After waiting till long past the hour, we started with ten, but before the finish over fifteen were present. Complaint was made of the brief notice received regarding meetings. The usual subjects were dealt with by the speakers, and good interest was manifested.

STRATHCLAIR.

We had also an attendance here of fifteen, but it was claimed that double that would have been present had more extended notice been given.

MINNEDOSA.

After waiting an hour and a half, we counted an attendance of one, so audience and speaker adjourned to the creamery, where some good object lessons were learned. The failure of a meeting at this point can only be attributed to indifference on the part of the farmers.

NEEPAWA.

A fine meeting was had here, over thirty-five being present. The question of fruit growing and buttermaking were thoroughly gone into, no end of questions being asked and answered. The meeting closed after 6 o'clock, and all expressing themselves as having had a profitable and interesting time. Crops are well advanced in this locality; too much so to greatly benefit by the fine rain that fell the day after the meeting.

GLADSTONE.

On account of it being a holiday (Dominion Day) nearly everybody was attending a picnic at a grove some miles distant, so no meeting was held, but a fair sized audience gathered in the evening at the street corner, and for an hour or more the speakers improved the opportunity.

DAUPHIN.

Only fifteen present. The old complaint again heard here of lack of notice, but all present appeared to be much interested in what the speakers had to say, and promised a larger meeting next time. The crops in this locality are a little better than those further south. Some of the leading farmers estimate the crop at from 10 to 15 bushels per acre. Some fields seen will go more than that and some far less.

GLENSYON.

We had an enthusiastic meeting at this place, over thirty-five being present, and we were assured had the meeting been at 2 p. m. instead of the evening the schoolhouse would have been full to overflowing. The usual subjects were dealt with by the speakers, and a great many questions answered. One of the last to be put was by the chairman, who rose, and with a twinkle in his eye asked if it was true if the rings found so much in butter at the present time could be attributed to the dehorning system now so much in use. Cows having no horns to have rings on, did they put them in the butter? All of which was answered to everyone's satisfaction, and one of the best meetings of the series was brought to a close with votes of thanks to the speakers.

A. P. STEVENSON.