

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 or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
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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.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected 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.

This has not always left much profit to the credit of the live stock, but, when faced with the scantiness of such profits, as figured out, we have been disposed to dilate in a quite nebulous manner upon the general advantage—or necessity, if you will—of live-stock husbandry, as part of a permanent system of agriculture. We have argued that the farmer who kept live stock enriched his farm, and was thereby enabled to grow larger crops, at a greater profit, and could consequently produce crops more cheaply than the farmer who did not keep stock. All of which is true enough, and easy to say, but which really does not answer the question, "How much is a ton of manure worth?" And until attempt is made to answer this question after a definite, comprehensive manner, naming approximate figures for typical conditions calculated to embrace the whole answer in terms of dollars and cents per ton, there will be a constant temptation to underestimate the value of manure, to allow it to waste about the buildings, as may be seen in so many instances, to discount the profits of stock husbandry, especially in periods of sudden rise in feed prices, and to cast the doubt always against the stock.

We believe a well-considered reply to the question will make plain that farmyard manure is worth three or four times as much per ton as commonly conceded; that its value varies greatly with conditions, particularly with the amount produced per farm; that a grain-raising farmer, for instance, might profitably keep a few head of stock, even though he did poorly with them, because of the high value that manure would possess for his impoverished land; that a man feeding a hundred steers on his farm might derive less profit per head than if keeping fifty, because the manure produced by the second fifty head would not produce as good returns in increasing crop production as would the manure from the first fifty, since the extra quantity of fertilizer would not be so badly needed. Excess of available fertility in the soil increases the proportion of waste by leaching and otherwise. The whole consideration, we believe, will tend to emphasize the advantage and advis-

ability of mixed farming, of feeding most of the crops raised upon the farm, although it might not pay very well to buy feeds in order to keep an extra number of head.

In order that we may act wisely, we must think wisely, clearly and understandingly. To this end, a full and thorough-going discussion through our columns this winter will be of priceless advantage. Contributions are invited on the subject, and thoughtful ones will be remunerated at much more than regular correspondence rates. Two years ago it was estimated that three quarters of a billion dollars' worth of manure was annually wasted in the United States. Less enormous, but still great, is the yearly waste in Canada. Would such loss occur if we fully appreciated the value of manure? The subject is of vast importance. Let each thinker bring his intelligence to bear upon it, and discuss conclusions with his fellows. The opportunity is afforded by our columns.

Free Renewal.

To encourage and reward our friends in the good work of extending our circulation, we offer these very favorable terms to those getting up clubs:

1 new subscriber and your renewal,	\$2.25
2 " " " " " "	3.00
3 " " " " " "	4.00

or you may choose some of the valuable premiums we are offering for securing new subscribers.

Remember that all the names but your own must be the names of new subscribers, persons who have not taken the paper for at least 12 months. A man who stops for a few weeks, and then starts again, is not regarded as a new subscriber. Neither is it permissible for one member of the family to drop the paper, in order that another in the same household may come in as a new subscriber. Such is contrary to both the spirit and the letter of our offer. We want to get the paper into new homes.

The Purely Agricultural Fair.

"The only great show in the country which is purely educative, without admixture of special attractions," was the remark frequently made to each other by visitors at the recent Ontario Winter Fair, at Guelph. The popularity of that show among farmers is growing at a faster rate than that of any other of the great exhibitions held annually at different points in the country. Its patronage depends upon the exhibits it brings together and the helpfulness of the lectures arranged for; hence, the board of directors are continually on the alert to have these abreast of the times, and always improving.

Back of the satisfaction expressed by the patrons of the Winter Fair, there lurks a feeling of dissatisfaction with the management of the Fall Fairs. It is felt that the thought and energy that are expended in having instructive exhibits displayed in the one case, are in the other diverted to the securing of special attractions, while the matter of exhibits is left in the same old rut. It can scarcely be expected to be otherwise. Fair-board directors have their own private duties to attend to, and the amount of their time and energy at the disposal of the public is limited. If they can manage to keep up the attendance at the show by freshness in the ring attractions, there is some excuse for them allowing the more legitimate and valuable departments to become rather stale. Besides, it is much easier to merely decide between rival claimants for ring performances than to study up and devise fresh ways of making the show proper interesting and attractive.

Some such reason is doubtless the cause of the Winter Fairs having something fresh and worth while every year, while many of the other exhibitions, having good races and acrobatic performances, have, year after year, the same class of

exhibits, shown in the same buildings, in the same old way. Listless crowds pass them with a glance, and make haste to secure a seat on the grand-stand. This union of the race-track and the agricultural show may seem to be popular; directors may be misled into thinking that it is, but it really is not. There is no denying the fact that crowds flock to the ring, but the interest that is drawn to that part of the combination means so much withdrawn from the other. The people themselves, who, after entering the show, have gone with the crowd, plainly see and are ready to admit that, so far as deriving any useful instruction is concerned, the show to them was a flat failure. There is a strong undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the whole fall-show business, a staleness, a tiredness of it all, very different from the hearty, wholesome satisfaction expressed by the visitors to the Winter Fair.

The race-track or the circus can succeed alone, so can the purely educational show, but a union of the two works mischief with the useful end, and leaves in the minds of most visitors an unsatisfied, uneasy feeling that time has not been very well spent.

Many autumn exhibitions might profit by the lesson of the Winter Fairs. While these, perhaps, have not the same opportunity to put on instructive features as the Provincial Winter Fairs, still, ever, they can draw good crowds to legitimate, purely agricultural exhibitions. The experience of the Highgate Fair, written up in "The Farmer's Advocate" some three or four years ago, is a luminous example of a first-class, profitable and interesting local fair, run without a circus or a horse race. What man has done, man can do. Eschew the racing and all other distracting features. They are seductive, a delusion and a snare.

Annexation Idea Deprecated.

A greatly-changed attitude of mind towards Canada is observable in the best people and the best papers of the United States. The policy of hampering and hemming in this country, which was popular a few years ago, with the view, as was suspected here, at least, of bringing us to a more humble state of mind, has been abandoned entirely. In place of that, there are expressions of goodwill, such as President Taft has given utterance to, and of appreciation of our laws and customs, such as was voiced by the International Congress of Labor, which lately met at Toronto.

In a late number of the New York Independent, we read such sentences as these: "It is by no means clear that our method of government is better than Canada's." "Our constitution was wonderfully fine for its day, but it needs loosening." Referring to the annexation question, it says: "Annexation we ought never to think or speak of." But "social fusion is pretty nearly complete. We meet as if we were one people. On both sides we move across the border, and still feel at home." "When Canada and the United States are ready to consider union, the means to accomplish it will have to be by a constitutional convention representing both countries, Canadians and Americans meeting on equal terms, neither subordinate, neither humiliated, both seeking by equal authority the same end." "When that shall come—for come it will—what a nation that would be. May our children see the day."

While the great majority of our readers will be indisposed to concede the destiny so confidently predicted by our American contemporary, holding that Canada's future lies with the British Empire, the utterance will, nevertheless, be appreciated as a respectful and temperate expression of opinion from across the line. As the Dominion grows and develops, it commands increasing respect.

Feast for Mind and Eye.

I esteem "The Farmer's Advocate" the greatest journal in Canada for the farm and home. Your Christmas Number, just to hand, is knowledge combined with beauty, a feast alike for the mind and sight.

W. MUNRO.

Welland Co., Ont.

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