

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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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 furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers of any publication in Canada.
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short of labor. Like the representative of the American iron concern these men agreed that the best men they had were men they had drawn in from the rural districts. In fact we are told they were loath to let these good men go out to the farms for the summer much as they wanted to increase production.

What does it all mean? City industry has stolen the farm help and many of the farmers. It has been bonused and protected to such a degree that it can pay the price which will induce men to leave the country for the city never to return. It can organize to get the men where the farmer has no such opportunity. Pleasure places aid in keeping the men, the modern picture show, according to the United States iron man does more to keep the families of working men in the cities than does any other single factor. In that way, he states, the movies are a mighty good thing for business which gets men from the country and a mighty bad factor for the farmer. Representatives of twentieth century city industry all agree that their most dependable men—men of character who honestly, industriously and straightforwardly pursue their work year after year come from the rural districts. If these are all drawn away where will the city look for revivifying blood in the future? The fact stands out that a great deal of the character of the nation depends directly on the men reared near the soil. Can all industry—can the nation afford to allow agriculture to be depleted of men by city industry? If not, agriculture should get a fairer field.

The other day we were reading a country paper and in it we found a large advertisement for boys to work in a Toronto plant. It did seem foolish to us to be sending Toronto high school boys out to the farms and attempting to draw rural boys who would doubtless know something about the farm in to the city. We have no criticism to offer with regard to any boy or man who is out to do his duty in increasing production. The farm needs all the laborers it can get. It does not require any agents of city business, however, to take away the few remaining boys and men. It is to be hoped that the men and boys who have gone or go out to the farm this year will not paint such rosy pictures of city life and work as to unsettle the minds of the few farm boys and hired men left in the country.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

City life is not all a flowery bed of ease, neither is farming—far from it in both cases. Let each be painted as it really is.

The producer and the consumer are beginning to see a faint light. The problem of one is the problem of the other. All cannot live in cities—all cannot work in and support city industry. All cannot contribute to bonuses and protection without someone suffering. The masses suffer—the few accumulate big fortunes. The farmer produces at great hardship and cost; the city workingman and consumer must buy at high prices. If few will farm few will eat cheap food.

More Winter Wheat.

Many Ontario farmers hold the belief that it scarcely pays them to grow fall wheat. Under normal conditions there may be some question, but at the present time a field of good wheat is not a bad investment. Of course, it would not be good practice to attempt to grow wheat on land not suited to its production. A good crop of oats is better for everybody, producer, consumer, and the nation than is a poor crop of wheat. Even in normal times ten or twelve acres of wheat on a farm operated on the mixed farming basis and where wheat grows well is a good crop to grow. The grain, mixed with other and coarser grains, is good feed if the price is low. If the price is high and other grain or feed can be bought to replace it, or if more feed is not necessary it will bring in a little ready cash. Best of all, from the standpoint of the stock farmer, is the straw for bedding. There is nothing like an abundance of straw to keep stables clean and cattle comfortable, and wheat gives the straw. There are special reasons why wheat should be sown this fall, and it is not too early to begin to plan. Clover or two-year-old sod makes suitable wheat land if broken up immediately the hay is removed, top-dressed and well worked down as a summer-fallow throughout the summer. Plow early, work well and often, and put in good tilth so that the wheat can be sown in good time in the fall. A barley stubble where land is in good condition and the barley is off early may be got ready for wheat, but best of all is the summer-fallow. If you have a piece of dirty land you are cleaning by the summer-fallow method this year and it is wheat land, sow wheat. Ontario should plan for a larger acreage of winter wheat this fall, but never sow wheat on poor, dirty or ill-prepared soil. Get the land ready for the crop; plan to sow it early so that it gets sufficient top to carry it over winter and it will pay.

Fewer and Better Fences.

On most Ontario farms there are too many fences. On all too many there are found fences out of repair, and in such a condition as to be simply temptations for live stock to get over into the adjoining fields to destroy crops and make trouble. On every farm where live stock is kept fences are a necessity, but these should take up as little space as possible and should be arranged so as to be easily kept up and in good repair. The days of the snake fence are numbered, and yet, properly built, a rail fence may yet be used to advantage where good rails from old fences are available for the erection of new. In cutting down the number of fences on the farm, two or three removed may furnish enough sound rails for one new. The rails decayed beyond usefulness for fences make good summer or threshing fuel. As the rail fences go, and they will soon all be gone, wire, neater and more permanent, less wasteful of land and less dangerous from weeds takes their place. In time wooden posts will be replaced by metal, in fact much metal is now in use for this purpose. Buy good wire heavily galvanized. Stretch it tightly. Staple it well, brace it properly on posts well down in the ground with corners solidly anchored, and you have a fence which will suit any farm purpose. Straight, sensible, slick and serviceable wire is replacing rails. Use the rails in a straight fence as long as they will last. Then buy good wire. Replace permanent fences here and there with a portable fence. Forty rods of woven wire can soon be stretched into a temporary fence across one end of a pasture field. Make bigger fields and have less turning, less expense and fewer weeds. June is the fencing month. Elsewhere in this issue hints to help are given.

If Brusiloff and his great army of Russians could only brute off an offensive or two of the magnitude of his 1916 campaign in Galicia, the last kick of the Kaiser's legions might come sooner than expected. However, conditions are such that a long war seems yet ahead.

FOUNDED 1866

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo Swainsoni*), is the characteristic hawk of the prairies, and is very common in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. It is also found in parts of British Columbia, and occasional individuals are seen in Ontario and as far east as Montreal. This species may be recognized by the characteristic *Buteo* outline, the dark patch on the breast and the numerous narrow dark bars on the under surface of the tail. Its note is a frequently repeated "Pi-tic—pi-tic—pi-tic."

The nest of the Swainson's Hawk is usually placed in the crown of a dense clump of willows, or more rarely in the fork of a tree at from twenty to thirty feet from the ground. They are composed of sticks and twigs and are

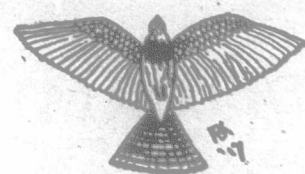


Fig. 8—Swainson's Hawk.

usually lined with twigs bearing green leaves. The eggs are from two to four in number, three being most usual. This species is a late breeder, the eggs being laid at the end of May or beginning of June. During the spring and summer the main food of Swainson's Hawk consists of gophers and field mice, but in the fall, after the breeding season, the adults and young collect in flocks in the foothills and on the prairie and feed exclusively on grasshoppers and crickets. Some of these flocks contain hundreds of individuals. In speaking of the work done in the destruction of grasshoppers by this species, Dr. Fisher, of the U. S. Biological Survey, says "If we assume that one hundred grasshoppers, which is only three-quarters the number found in a stomach after a single meal, is the daily allowance for one hawk, we have a grand total of 900,000 for the work of a flock of three hundred birds for one month. The weight of this vast number of



Fig. 9—Pigeon Hawk.

insects, allowing 15.4 grains for the weight of each, amounts to 1,984 pounds. An average of a number of estimates given by entomologists places the quantity of food devoured daily by a grasshopper as equal to its own weight; consequently if these grasshoppers had been spared by the hawks the farmer would have lost in one month nearly thirty tons of produce. The above estimate is probably much too low; for each hawk doubtless eats at least two hundred grasshoppers daily, which would double the amount, making the loss sixty tons instead of thirty. What estimate can be placed on the services of the hundreds of thousands which are engaged in the same work for months at a time?"

The Pigeon Hawk, (*Falco columbarius*), is northern in its breeding range, and during the nesting season is found in suitable localities from Newfoundland to Alaska. In Southern Canada it is seen only during migrations.



Fig. 10—Duck Hawk.

The Pigeon Hawk may be recognized by its small size (thirteen inches in length) long wings and long tail and the four black bars on the underside of the tail, the terminal bar being the broadest.

The food of this species consists of small birds, small mammals and insects.

The Duck Hawk, (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), breeds from Newfoundland to the Pacific Coast, but is nowhere common. It may be identified, when seen overhead, by its rather large size, (twenty inches long), long wings and tail, the numerous narrow bars on the underside of the tail and the black patches on the sides of the throat.

The eggs of the Duck Hawk are laid on a ledge on the face of a cliff, no nest being constructed. The young at first are fed on small birds, such as Swallows, Goldfinches, Flickers and Meadowlarks, the parents tearing them in small pieces and offering these to the young in their bills. As the young become stronger, larger birds are brought by the parents and the young fight strenuously among themselves for the possession of the prey.

The food of the adults consists mainly of ducks, coots and waders and sometimes of gulls and terns, and if in proximity to human habitations of poultry and pigeons.

This species is not excelled by any of our birds of prey in swiftness of flight or dexterity in capturing prey.

(To be concluded.)

An Hon

It wis rain day, an' as cam' intae t The auld wi lang before. nod till I nea juist then w "Hello Sand sale?" says ken that aul don't want t "I'd clean f ye, gin ye're Sae we v auld mare, farm that w chinery an' numerous ta

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