

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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in Canada.

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LONDON, CANADA.

the eighteen-foot harrow, and so on. And many
to-day are making a serious mistake in stocking
up with three-horse in place of four-horse outfits.
It seems a pity. As we have previously observed,
this is, or should be, throughout Eastern Canada,
the four-horse age. In the West they go still
better, and work five and six horses together, and
in some places employ steam plows.

As it is impossible to change an outfit all at
once, the farmer who has the two-horse imple-
ments must make the best of them; but in the
case referred to at the outset, the woman might
easily have been relieved of duty by attaching the
harrow to the roller and hitching the four horses
to the front implement. It is a plan that works
well where the rounds are reasonably long and the
land not too rough. This reminds us to mention
that much has been and more may be done to
increase the economy of cultivation by removing
unnecessary fences.

The fact that labor promises to be rather more
plentiful this summer than in some recent years,
is no excuse for wasting it. The way to make
good wages and profits in farming is to see that
every stroke counts its maximum. This cannot be
done where one man is employed to drive two
horses. We commend to a careful rereading the
article headed, "Solving the Labor Problem,"
and signed "Alone on a Hundred-acre Farm,"
page 292, issue Feb. 20th, relating how, by using
fast-working implements, the writer was enabled
to dispense with the services of the boy formerly
considered necessary. The slogan of modern
agriculture should be economy of labor. It is
time to abolish the two-horse team so far as
most farm operations are concerned, and double
up. It will be a great advantage to all con-
cerned. The laborer will earn more, and his em-
ployer, while paying him more generously, will
have a larger share left to himself.

Penury is the penalty of improvidence.

SWEET CLOVER AS A SOIL IMPROVER.

Many despised things of this earth have valu-
able uses, if we can only discover them. A few
weeks ago, in writing of legume inoculation
casual reference was made to "the common weed,
sweet clover," the bacteria on the roots of which
appear to be practically the same as those on the
roots of alfalfa. Now, along comes a letter from
our good friend and correspondent, G. A. Dead-
man, of Huron Co., Ont., a well-known apicultur-
al and alfalfa enthusiast, protesting against the
application of the term "weed," urging experi-
ment with sweet clover as a means of inoculating
and, at the same time, enriching poor land for
alfalfa, and even quoting instances to show that
sweet clover itself possesses many virtues, not
only as bee forage, but as a producer of pasture
and cured fodder for cattle. Of course, in using
the term "weed," we were merely designating the
plant as it is commonly regarded. Sweet clover
is a weed, in that it grows voluntarily in some
places where its presence is offensive. It is by
no means a noxious weed, however, but, on the
contrary, a wonderfully beneficent one. As a soil-
improver it is possibly unequalled.

The idea of improving poor soils by growing
sweet clover, while by no means new, has not by
the majority of farmers been taken as seriously
as it probably deserves. Beekeepers, who are ac-
cused of having disseminated sweet clover along
the roadsides of this country, because it furnishes
nectar for the bees, have been roundly abused for
their pains. Some day they may be blessed. It
is strange that the luxuriance with which this
plant grows along hard, bare roadsides, where
even blue grass can make no headway, should not
long ago have afforded a cue to owners of steep,
gullied, clay hillsides or light sand dunes, on
which it might be grown, and either the whole
crop or the sward plowed under as a preparation
for other and more valuable crops. The advan-
tages of sweet clover for such a purpose are that,
being a very hardy legume, it secures a stand and
thrives where other plants cannot. Nitrogen it
takes from the air; potash and phosphoric acid
it draws from the comparatively inert and un-
available compounds in the soil. When roots and
tops, or even the sward alone, are plowed under,
it adds greatly to the humus content and to the
amount of available fertility in the soil; also
filling it with the bacteria which will enable a
subsequent crop of alfalfa to thrive. Being a
biennial, it soon dies out, unless allowed to reseed
itself. It is easy to exterminate and keep out of
a cultivated field. Cattle, while disdaining it at
first acquaintance, grow to relish the tender her-
bage of the young plants, and thrive on a suitable
ration on which it forms a part.

In this connection, we were interested to ob-
serve the other day, in "Gleanings in Bee Cul-
ture," an article by Frank Coverdale, of Iowa,
with an illustration depicting a herd of steers
grazing in a sweet-clover meadow. When shipped
to Chicago, on August 1st, these cattle brought
\$5.75 per cwt. The field had been sown to sweet
clover for four years, and it seems to thrive better
every year, and the owner says of it that, "No
one who looks at this pasture and sees the cattle
eating it and becoming fat has any doubt about
its value as a pasture plant." He makes the
statement that sweet clover is worth "four dol-
lars an acre for honey, fifteen dollars an acre as
pasture for cattle, and thirty dollars an acre for
seed when the seed sells near home for ten
dollars a bushel."

However all these claims may be, and we will
not at this distance undertake to vouch for them,
even although they are quoted from a reliable
source, there is, at least, little or no doubt that,
for impoverished soils, incapable of growing other
legumes successfully, sweet clover is well worth
trying as a means of soil-improvement, and espe-
cially as a precursor of that king of legumes, al-
falfa.

Many a good farmer has been spoiled to make
a poor lawyer or a poor preacher. The fault lies
with our educational system, which fits boys only
for the professions. The boy gets started into a
profession, and finds himself unfitted for it, and
the result is that he gets out of sympathy with the
world and mankind.—[H. G. Russell.]

PUBLIC ABATTOIRS NEEDED.

On page 605 of "The Farmer's Advocate" of
April 2nd, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Veter-
inary Director-General, in a very complete and
lucid statement, headed "Municipal Regulation of
Local Meat Supply," deals with the complaints of
a number of meat-packers to the effect that the
Meat and Canned Foods Act unintentionally in-
flicts an injustice on the establishments engaged
in inter-Provincial and export trade, by imposing
on them contingencies and conditions not applying
to those in purely local or Provincial business.

In reply, Dr. Rutherford points out that the
Meat and Canned Foods Act was passed and put
into operation in the interests of the export trade.
It was decided that it could not be applied to the
local and Provincial trade for constitutional rea-
sons, the purview of the Federal Government ex-
tending only to inter-Provincial and international
trade. Moreover, the expense of providing a com-
petent staff of federal inspectors for every petty
slaughter-house in the country would be enor-
mous. As implied above, trade confined within
the boundaries of a Province is held to be within
the jurisdiction of that Province, and since 1872
has been dealt with altogether by the Provincial
authorities. Provision is made either by the
Municipal Act or the Public Health Act of each
Province, and in some cases by both, for municip-
al meat inspection, although this legislation has
hitherto, in a great many cases, remained a dead
letter, or, at best, been very ineffectually enforced.
The number of diseased animals and unhealthful
carcasses that are worked off annually on un-
suspecting consumers would horrify the nation if
the facts were blazoned forth, as were the Chicago
revelations. We are inclined to think it is time
a wholesome awakening took place.

What is to be done? The Meat and Canned
Foods Act is here to stay. Any injustice it en-
tails to certain packers must be remedied, not by
a backward, but by another forward step. If
the health of Mr. Jones in England, or Mr. Char-
pentier in France, is worth looking after, what
about Mr. Brown in Ontario, or Mr. McDougall in
Nova Scotia? The only logical development, as
the astute head of the Veterinary and Live-stock
Branches points out, must be the strict regula-
tion and inspection by the municipalities of their
local meat supply; and to this end, the first and
great necessity will be the provision of public
municipal abattoirs, to be conducted under inspec-
tion methods similar to those required by the
Meat and Canned Foods Act. The sooner the
ill-smelling and unsanitary private slaughter-house
is abolished, the better, and the trade in home-
killed dressed carcasses will necessarily follow in
it wake, for the reason that dressed carcasses can-
not be properly inspected, as some of the symp-
toms of diseased conditions are not readily observ-
able except on the killing-bed.

This is an age of sanitary reform. Risks of
infection that we once ran readily, because we did
not know better, now cause us to shudder. Sanitary
milk, wholesome meat, pure food of all
kinds, and sanitary precautions in the interests of
human health, are coming to be insisted upon;
and even in this country of comparatively healthy
herds and flocks, the dangers lurking in unregu-
lated meat supply are far too great to be suffered
tamely. The public abattoir is a municipal neces-
sity, and cannot come too soon.

"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE" FILLS THE BILL.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am a new subscriber. May I enter the
charmed circle? I am not a new reader, for I
have looked over all last year's numbers, and, as
the boys say, they are "choke-full" of instructive
matter. I took "The Farmer's Advocate" a few
years about twenty-five years ago, when it was a
monthly. Then, as I was only a 50-acre farmer
(and am yet), I got it into my head that "The
Farmer's Advocate" was only for swell farmers
who had plenty of capital for costly experiments.
I have taken American papers since; there are
good things in them, but the general trend don't
"fit in" in Ontario. Then, I do love what is
thoroughly Canadian, from center to circumfer-
ence, and yet without narrowness. Such is "The
Farmer's Advocate." I see lots of helpful things
in it that will fit small as well as large farms,
whether the change is in me or the paper, or both.
Anyway, I am like the prodigal, coming home.
There are many live questions on hand to fill
your columns from time to time. Farming has