

## 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.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:  
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,  
London, W. C., England.

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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 implements 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 concerned. The laborer will earn more, and his employer, 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 valuable 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. Deadman, of Huron Co., Ont., a well-known apicultural and alfalfa enthusiast, protesting against the application of the term "weed," urging experiment 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 accused 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 advantages 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 unavailable 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 herbage of the young plants, and thrive on a suitable ration on which it forms a part.

In this connection, we were interested to observe the other day, in "Gleanings in Bee Culture," 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 dollars an acre for honey, fifteen dollars an acre as pasturage 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 especially as a precursor of that king of legumes, alfalfa.

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 Veterinary 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 inflicts 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 reasons, the purview of the Federal Government extending only to inter-Provincial and international trade. Moreover, the expense of providing a competent staff of federal inspectors for every petty slaughter-house in the country would be enormous. 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 municipal 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 unsuspecting 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 entails 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. Charpentier 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 regulation 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 inspection 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 its wake, for the reason that dressed carcasses cannot be properly inspected, as some of the symptoms of diseased conditions are not readily observable 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 unregulated meat supply are far too great to be suffered tamely. The public abattoir is a municipal necessity, 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 circumference, 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