

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:  
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:  
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

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

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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### An Essay on the Horse.

The following remarkable essay on the horse is said to be from the pen of an Indian student: "The horse is a very noble quadruped, but when he is angry he will not do so. He is ridden on the spinal cord by the bridle, and sadly the driver places his foot on the stirrups and divides his lower limbs across the saddle and drives his animal to the meadow. He has four legs; two are on the front side and two are afterward. These are the weapons on which he runs. He also defends himself by extending these in the air in a parallel direction toward his foe, but this he does only when he is in an aggravating mood. There is no animal like the horse. No sooner they see their guardian or master than they always cry for food, but it is always at the morning time. They have got tails, but not so long as the cow and such other like animals."

Mr. A. R. Wheeler, Bonaventure, Que., says: "Enclosed please find my renewal for your ever welcome paper, the 'Farmer's Advocate.' It is a valuable paper to any farmer, and all that can be desired, as it gives all the information relating to farming in all its branches; raising, feeding and caring for all kinds of stock, and some of the best and answers in the Vet. Dept. alone are worth the subscription price. I wish you continued success."

W. W. Chapman, London, Co., Ont., says: "The 'Farmer's Advocate' is a very valuable paper, and gives most profitable and interesting reading."

### British Wheat and Meat Markets.

The outbreak of war in the Far East has, for the time being, diverted the attention of all classes from matters nearer home. Although war was generally expected to be the outcome of the prolonged negotiations, it has come upon us with a startling suddenness, and we have not yet quite realized the serious possibilities it may have for us as the ally of Japan.

Since my last letter, Parliament has been opened by the King in person, with the usual pomp and circumstance attendant upon such great occasions. In the Speech from the Throne, reference to matters agricultural was not made, but an amendment has been given notice of by Mr. R. Price, to the effect that the restrictions now in force against the importation of Canadian live stock are detrimental to the best interests of English farmers and graziers, and asking that, at an early date, the embargo be removed. I am very pleased, as, no doubt, your readers will be, that this question is being kept so well to the front, although, of course, being an amendment to the address, it will be made a party question, and has no chance of being accepted or carried. It will, however, be interesting to note the official reply.

This week, the time of the House of Commons has been taken up with Mr. John Morley's amendment on the proposed fiscal changes. What the Government's position is would be hard to say, judging from the speeches of Ministers, and without the services of Balfour and Chamberlain they have made a sorry show in debate. [NOTE.—The Morley amendment was defeated by a majority of over forty.—Editor.]

A proposal has been made to the Government that in lieu of a duty on foreign-grown wheat, a bounty should be given on wheat produced in this country and in the colonies. I understand that the suggestion is receiving serious consideration in quarters where a tax on imported grain is looked upon with disfavor.

The bulk of the English wheat on offer is very damp and difficult to mill, but, at the same time, there have been some really good samples on the market. For the latter, farmers will not be satisfied with less than \$7.50 per quarter.

The climatic surroundings have been unusually unfavorable, both for farmer and miller, and the position of the latter in the future will be imagined when the small acreage of wheat sown this year is considered. No doubt, many millers will be able to make up a grist of foreign sorts, but the average country miller will sadly miss the home-grown article. There are some useful wheats on the market at the present time, including Manitobas, Duluths, Winters, Indians, Russians and River Plates. From this section, millers who can get wheats cheaply from the ports ought to be able to make a good grinding mixture, and if they can get a little English wheat the grist will be improved, especially if it be conditioned, either naturally or artificially. The River Plates are very fair, and, as these are about the cheapest on the market, they will, no doubt, be used in helping to cheapen the mixture, especially as good prices have to be paid for Canadian strong wheat.

The question is often asked, which is the best British market for cattle? London is undoubtedly the best market for the best cattle. The buyers at Deptford are mostly the big wholesale men in the Central Market, Smithfield, and they are always prepared to pay a good price for anything really choice.

In Liverpool (Woodside), the lairage buyers are mostly commission men, and when they are full, the beef in most cases is sent on to London, rather than reduce the price in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

At Glasgow, the wholesale carcass buyers are the customers, and the compulsory slaughter frequently leaves Yorkhill at the mercy of the Moore Street men.

Taking all things into consideration, there is not much to choose between the three ports as regards prices to be obtained, but London, in my opinion, is the safest market, provided the stock is of the right sort, and not merely shipped because the space on the boat is cheap and the price of plain cattle tempting.

Sometimes good prices are made on consignments of cattle to Bristol, Manchester, Hull, Newcastle and Cardiff, but, as they are only "occasional," I leave them out of my reckoning.

In the butter market there is practically no change. No Canadian butter is on offer in London, and although war has broken out, there is no immediate prospect of the supplies from Russia and Siberia being stopped. In the meantime, the greater portion of our imported butter comes from Australasia, and the quantities coming forward are such that no increase in price can be hoped for.

In the bacon market, the fore part of the week, Canadian selections were a dragging sale, but since then a livelier demand has sprung up, and the best and bonest sorts are now at previous quotations. Hams are only in limited request, at about previous curancies.

The demand for Canadian cheese is rather sluggish, and even the very best September makes it difficult to get to the top figures, 11c. to 11½c. The stock of cheese on hand is 114,000 boxes, as against 76,000 boxes at the same time last year.

At Deptford foreign cattle market on Wednesday 114 sorts from the States were on offer. These were of a much cheaper description than usual, and, with that exception, a pick of them only made 10½c. to 11½c. per cwt. This does not represent a drop in cattle values, as good bullocks would have made the highest price of the year.

London, February 12th, 1904.

## HORSES.

### Our Horse Supply.

It may not seem untimely to call the attention of the farmers of this country to some of the salient features of the horse-breeding industry, especially as it applies to the production of the most useful classes of horses. The pride taken by some in raising a good class of horses has been well repaid. Good horses are selling to-day for from \$150 up, and really choice animals are likely to reach much higher prices. But such animals can only be produced from really first-class mares. Good, heavy brood mares are not plentiful, and the mothers of the geldings which bring the highest prices in the markets for the large cities have to first be grown before that class of horse, so strongly in demand to-day, can be produced; so that our most advanced breeders have good prospects ahead of them.

Modern methods of tillage require double the number of horses on the farm. Farm help is getting more scarce every year; our seasons are short, and a larger number of horses will have to be raised to provide motive power to work the different kind of machinery on the farm. Besides, the opening up of Manitoba and the Northwest will take all of our good agricultural horses for some years to come, and the expansion of our lumbering trade, in addition, will create a ready demand for many horses of the useful sort.

This brings us to the point that the country will require to breed many horses to supply this motive power, and to the question whether the horses can be more cheaply purchased or raised. With three- and four-year-olds selling at from \$150 to \$200, it will pay better to raise our work horses than to buy them; because, with a good brood mare properly mated, we can raise probably a better horse than we can buy, and at not more than half the price that such horse can be bought for. Since it stands to reason that it pays better to raise than to depend on buying, it brings us to the point as to what class of horses to raise? There are two useful classes which can be profitably reared—heavy draft and agricultural. The former should weigh from 1,500 lbs. up to 2,000 lbs.; the other class from 1,300 lbs. up to 1,400 lbs. As to which class to breed will depend on the size of the brood mare, and the object of the breeder, his tastes, etc. It is generally advisable to make use of the best material on hand, rather than to go out and buy or import. Still, should it appear that the farmer has not a mare of good enough conformation and quality, it will pay him better to go out and buy a good mare rather than to breed from an inferior one of his own breeding, and in this case \$50 or \$100 should not stick a man who has to buy, and who really intends to start breeding horses, even if starting on a small scale.

The average farmer will probably say that a team weighing from 2,600 to 2,800 pounds are more useful on the farm than a heavier pair. This theory is quite correct, but needs to be qualified. That weight is about right, but should be associated with activity, smoothness of form, and good substance. A slow-moving team of that weight make poor sellers, and are not in it for farm work. The most valuable class of horses to breed is the heavy draft class. The mare intended to produce this class of horses should be of large size, smooth in conformation, should possess a strong development of muscle, with large, round feet, open hoof heads, springy pasterns, with heavy, clean-boned limbs. The feet, muscles and limbs require the most important consideration. Nowadays, when style and activity play so important a part in the price of horses, no breeder can afford to overlook this point in his breeding operations. It was this point alone that placed the Clydesdale gelding ahead of the other breeds at the Chicago International Shows, and which will always commend that most excellent breed when distinguished from other draft breeds.

Some farmers may wish to know about the advantage of the Shire cross. Notwithstanding my prejudice against cross-breeding, I am led from observation to believe there are cases where the Shire crossed on our grade Clyde mares is a great advantage. In the Huron district in Ontario, for example, the Shire cross-bred horses often sell for \$50 and more per head than the high-grade Clydesdale. The resulting progeny attain larger size at an earlier age, and grow big enough to fetch the best price on the market. There is no doubt but that this cross when properly used would produce a heavier class of mares to be utilized as good foundation stock on which to cross some of our cleaner-lined quality Clydes. It may be in place to mention here some of the disadvantages of introducing the Shire blood. First, the setting back of the progress made in attaining pedigreed stock, rougher hoof heads and rougher knuckles as a result of the cross. Where it is thought desirable to use the Shire stallion, the most modern type of animal should be selected—one strongly massive, with lengthy pasterns, large, open hoof heads, and good feet.

I would like to have touched on other phases