

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 or 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.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$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.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearages must be made as required by law.
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10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
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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.

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THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Canada to-day, even where kept for purely dairy purposes, is not the attenuated dairy type, but the cow of more substantial and symmetrical build and hardier constitution. The medium type is more rational, more in harmony with nature's laws, and therefore adapted to the combination of a higher average degree of excellence.

If Shorthorn breeders were to resist the modern demand, what then? The field for their breed would be narrowed and their trade divided among the dairy breeds, on the one hand, and the remaining beef breeds on the other. The bulwark of the cosmopolitan Shorthorn cow has been her dual-purpose function. Sacrifice that, and her special hold on popularity is gone. If our Canadian Shorthorn breeders are wise in their day and age, they will not sacrifice it. They will take immediate steps for the systematic development of the milking quality of their breed, and the means lies ready at their hand in the Record of Performance, such as has been adopted by the dairy-breed societies, and the privileges of which the Dominion Department of Agriculture stands ready and willing to extend to the Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

COMMON-SENSE MANAGEMENT VS. TUBERCULIN

Every little while some person comes along with an expensive scheme to eradicate bovine tuberculosis wholesale, by stamping out, at one fell swoop, or by one prolonged attack, all the animals affected with tuberculosis and all the tubercle bacilli. Their effort is ill-conceived, first, because impossible, and secondly, because, if nature is headed off in one way of culling the weaklings and rebelling against unnatural treatment, she will only find another, probably still more drastic. The varieties of germ life are legion, and they have a faculty of getting in their work wherever a seed-bed is provided in the form of weak constitutions or vitiated functions. The

rational way to cope with animal tuberculosis is to remove or avoid the causes. Here is a comprehensive recipe "The Farmer's Advocate" would suggest: Avoid breeding from weak-constituted animals, especially those in whose systems disease has made serious inroads. Avoid inbreeding and close line-breeding. Excellence of type fixed in this way is attended with the seeds of ultimate trouble in sterility and disease. Do not overstock any farm with any one kind of animals. The farm with sheep, hogs, cattle, horses and poultry is less liable to serious loss by disease than the farm stocked with any one kind only. Study sanitation in the housing of live stock, both pure-bred and grade. Poultrymen have revolutionized their ideas of housing, and breeders of other stock must do the same. Sunlight, dryness, and plenty of fresh air, without drafts, must be sought in stable-construction, while a certain amount of open-air exercise should be allowed all breeding animals at will, without compelling them to shudder, hump-backed, for hours in a bleak barnyard exposure. The field of rape to which the cattle may go on nice autumn and early-winter days, the old-fashioned straw-stack, or a noonday feed of hay in a protected shed, are ideal means of exercising stock rationally. The great principle in this is to give the animal a pleasurable incentive to exercise, and an open-air feed is the best means we know of to this end.

Our prayer is for more common sense in the breeding, housing, exercising and general management of live stock.

THE AGRICULTURAL ARISTOCRACY.

The best proof of the value of a paper to its readers is the amount of time they spend in reading it, and the results obtained by advertisers who use its columns.

The results secured by our advertisers of all lines, from poultry and live stock to farm implements and general merchandise, are a splendid tribute to the standing of "The Farmer's Advocate" among the better class of Canadian agriculturists. Live-stock advertisers by the dozen have assured us that no other medium in Canada compares with it in results. A prominent Holstein breeder not long since informed us that he got twenty replies from "The Farmer's Advocate" for one from the other medium he had used (a paper with more or less circulation all over Canada). Only this fall, the wife of a leading Ayrshire breeder, who has his announcement running regularly in several papers, assured us that every request for stock they received, that specified any paper at all, invariably referred to "The Farmer's Advocate," none other being even mentioned. In commercial advertising, it is much the same story. The manager of a prominent firm of Canadian incubator manufacturers told us lately that they got more inquiries through "The Farmer's Advocate" than through any other paper in which they advertised, and the percentage of business resulting from the inquiries was decidedly better than in the case of any other medium.

Yet another phase of the matter is illustrated by the experience of an enterprising Ontario manufacturer of miscellaneous farm implements and contrivances. Although this particular man got a larger number of inquiries from a certain other paper of wide circulation in which he was carrying the same space as in ours, he found, when he came to foot up the amount of his sales, that the patrons with whom he got in touch through "The Farmer's Advocate" were far the more liberal purchasers, buying largely of the more expensive lines of machinery, and bought more dollars' worth of goods than the patrons with whom he got in touch through the competing medium. Consequently, "The Farmer's Advocate" proved the more profitable paper for him to use. And this is the general verdict. It is a fact that counts with business men. Incidentally, it is a highly-gratifying tribute to the character of our subscribers as a class. Those who take "The Farmer's Advocate" are in good company, the agricultural aristocracy, so to speak.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

THE RELATION OF DOGS TO THE FALLING-OFF IN SHEEP-KEEPING.

A vexed question in these Maritime Provinces is certainly that with regard to the ravages caused by dogs to our sheep flocks. Without doubt, there has been a great falling off in sheep down in these sea divisions, as well as all over older Canada. A week or so ago we adverted to the general causes to which this is attributable, causes which are everywhere verified, as well as with us here. Frankly, we were not disposed to take the dog argument seriously at first, but facts are gradually coming to light which must convince any fair-minded man that there is much in it, and that protection should be afforded to the industry, if it is to recover its lost prestige and extend as we would have it, as an element making as much for the agricultural supremacy of our country as any other we know of. The information collected on this Island shows clearly that, within late years especially, the dog menace has been really serious. This very day, two of our best farmers have testified to great loss to their flocks from this source. "Despite all research and the offer of rewards, we are unable to do more than suspect whose curs did the damage," said one of them to us; and this seems to be the general result. It would appear that dogs, naturally gregarious, like their wolf progenitors, assemble for the attack in the night, and so stealthy are they that it is hard to persuade any man that the innocent canine on the hearthstone next morning was the depredator of the night previous in his neighbor's paddocks.

The press of this Eastern country and its public departments have taken a hand in determining how far the people are really desirous of placing the sheep before the dog in the domestic economy. A voting contest—Dog vs. Sheep—has been in progress for some time, and now comes Principal Cumming, of Truro Agricultural College, with a return on the matter which will be a means to the multiplication of the Nova Scotia flocks—a consummation he has very much at heart. Mr. Cumming, as Secretary of Agriculture, sent out forms to all the parts of the Province where sheep are raised, with these two questions to be answered:

1. Give your opinion as to what extent dogs are accountable for the relatively small number of sheep kept?

2. What is your opinion of the "Pearson Bill," brought before the House last session?

It may be stated, in explanation of question No. 2, that the Pearson Bill contemplated the imposing a tax of \$2 on all male dogs and \$3 on females, with power to destroy strays, as a means of ridding the community of unowned or unclaimed dogs; and also, of reducing the number kept by parties with extraordinary predilections for this sort of animal. No doubt the Bill will be re-introduced at the coming session of Parliament.

Of the 124 farmers selected, without regard to any other consideration except the securing of an honest vote, 87 express themselves with regard to the Pearson Bill, 64 in favor of it unconditionally, 6 partially favoring it, and 17 opposing it unreservedly. Some 37 made no reply with regard to the tax, but, of this number, 16 consider dogs are more or less accountable for depreciation in sheep flocks. On the other hand, 21 exempt dogs from all blame. It will thus be seen that by a large majority the dog stands convicted by this extensive poll.

"The above 124 correspondents," writes Secretary Cumming, "were not especially selected to pass an opinion on this question; they are the regular correspondents on crops, and represent all shades of politics. It would seem that one might safely consider their conclusions as representative of the country at large. There will probably always be some opposed to any legislation which, in aiming to protect sheep, does so at the expense of dogs."

In his return, the Secretary gives the names and replies of his correspondents. We can only take half a dozen of them at random:

A. A. Morrison, Richmond Co., C. B.—More than the usual number of sheep were killed by dogs in this district, the loss falling entirely on the sheep owners. We favor (a) the dog tax, (b)