

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and
Succeed."

Established
1868.

Vol. XLV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 28, 1910

No. 918

EDITORIAL.

All over this continent the cost of living has suddenly awakened town folk to realize that the farmer is a king.

What methods are readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" pursuing to conserve for the growing crops of this season the saturation of moisture which the soil received during winter and early spring?

Would you attempt to grow a crop of grass or grain between your rows of corn? Yet this would be wisdom, compared to the effort to harvest such crops from among a full-bearing apple orchard.

An orchard, for best results, once it has reached bearing age, requires the full use of the land. Particularly in the early part of the season, it demands all the moisture and plant food the soil can furnish.

Who knows how much we have yet to unlearn of theories about handling quality and other external indications of beefing merit? We have opinions and dicta plenty, but of solid, incontrovertible information none too much.

A skilled tradesman, with a permanent position, bringing him \$3 per day, in London, Ont., gave it up to work a small farm, and, after a fair trial, concludes that, under no consideration would he return to city dirt, drudgery and distractions.

The recent sale in the United States of a Canadian-bred Shorthorn bull for the handsome price of \$10,000, is a vindication of his championship honors at the National Exhibition at Toronto, last autumn, and an added evidence of the capability of Canadian breeders to produce the highest type of live stock.

A good many members of Federal and Provincial Parliaments appear to have the notion entrenched in their noddles that their chief duty is to represent some political party. Wrong. They are sent there to work for the whole people, not for themselves, or any particular faction in their own constituency or elsewhere.

Before embarking in the dubious Hudson's Bay Railway project, the Canadian Parliament would do well to complete the Grand Trunk Pacific and the proposed Georgian Bay Canal, and redeem the pre-Confederation promise of affording adequate continuous communication with the mainland to the patient public of Prince Edward Island.

Ontario has wonderful wealth in Cobalt, but this same Cobalt is a disastrous sink-hole for many people's good money. Rather, Cobalt is the bait which induces them to throw money into the pockets of sharps and boomsters. Prof. W. G. Miller, Provincial Geologist, says nine-tenths of those men in Cobalt who have written most reports, and given most advice, are fakirs. Plums in the investment line do not go begging. Nor does it follow that an investment is wise because the money is put into the stock of a good mine. Overcapitalization and manipulation are neat ways of milking the credulous investor. Only the man on the inside has any chance worth mentioning. The average man should let stocks severely alone. Most of them are like cheap merchandise—made to sell.

That the United States does not propose to allow farming to grow inert or languish may be gathered from the fact that the appropriation by the sixty-first Congress for the Department of Agriculture amounts to \$13,522,636, an increase of \$547,600 over any previous bill. The increases are chiefly for new work in research, demonstration, and in the conflict with animal and vegetable pests.

Two very successful strawberry-growers at the O. A. C. short course in fruit-growing, last February, laid much stress on spraying with Bordeaux mixture before blooming. One of them sprays, also, just after blooming. Our spray calendar recommends two applications for the leaf-spot, one before the blossoms open, and one soon after picking. Plow down at once after second crop. In setting out a plantation, choose only healthy plants, with no sign of disease.

Hon. Mr. Fielding, the Finance Minister, announced at Ottawa that the Government had strained a point, and decided to redeem defaced coins, such as those with holes punched in them, at 75 per cent. of their face value. Worn coin was being recalled and exchanged at par. Most of the requests for the redemption of defaced coins come from church treasurers. If there is any meaner trick than trying to palm off coins on the Lord that nobody else will take, it has escaped our notice.

The American politician keeps his grip like a horse-leech on the "free-seed" humbug, for which the present Congress appropriated \$318,000. Secretary Wilson and a host of self-respecting men are opposed to it, but the political hack wants something to hand out to his friends at the public expense. F. D. Coburn, State Secretary of the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, makes the sensible suggestion that the amount be divided among the Experiment Stations for work in the improvement of grain and other crops.

The Secretary of the Canadian Swine Commission has written an interesting bulletin on swine husbandry. Some well-known facts have been presented afresh, and some details of European hog-raising practices set forth once more. The report, however, contains nothing of importance that is new, for the simple reason that there was little new to glean. We have heard it practically all many times before. If experience was wanted, the Commission could have spent at least a portion of its time to better advantage in Canada.

Some men don't know a bargain when they see it. One of the 1907 split-log-drag competitors who built and kept a first-class mile of road with this homely implement, upon removing to another township, offered to repeat the performance if some small compensation were to be allowed. But lo and behold, the best the commissioners would do was not to charge him anything for the privilege of working on the road! This township owns two road machines, and year after year blue muck is scooped from ditch-bottoms into the middle of the road, to be levelled down by traffic, not to mention the heavy cost to the township. Our correspondent adds that, from his experience with the drag and King ditcher, he is satisfied the expense could be halved. Of course it could, and with better results.

Which Industry Draws More Capital?

"In the past ten years, \$170,000,000 of American capital has gone to Canada." Quoting this reported remark of Eugene N. Foss, millionaire manufacturer, of Boston, "Industrial Canada" waxes eloquent over the advantage that has come to Canadian industry through a tariff which has been the means of establishing in our midst such plants as that of the Canadian Westinghouse Company, the Plymouth Cordage Co., and others. Our contemporary's editorial is impressive, but not convincing. It fails to prove that as much American capital would not have come to Canada for investment under a very much lower tariff, or even under free trade. But, passing that point by, permit us to draw attention to the fact that the American settlers going into the West last year are estimated to have taken with them nearly a hundred million dollars of capital, or more than half as much as came to us from the United States for industrial investment in a whole decade. Which industry, agriculture or manufacturing, is the more important to us? Which is the better worth encouraging?

Deane Willis to Judge at Toronto.

The directors of the Canadian National Exhibition, and breeders of Shorthorn cattle in the Dominion, are to be congratulated on securing as judge of the breed at Toronto this year J. Deane Willis, of Bapton Manor, Codford, Wiltshire, widely known as one of the most prominent and successful Shorthorn breeders in Great Britain. Mr. Willis' fame dates from his purchase of ten females and a bull from the Sittyton herd of the late Amos Cruickshank, at its dispersion, and his success as a breeder is evidenced by the brilliant prizewinning record of representatives of his herd at the Royal and other leading shows, and by his being the breeder of the great show bull, Whitehall Sultan, imported in dam, sire of more International champions than any other in America in recent years.

How to Spray Thoroughly.

A good many orchard-owners will spray this year for the first time. Barring, of course, exceptionally disastrous conditions as to weather or markets, the work will be well repaid; in many cases it will be repaid two or three times over. But unless one certain condition is observed there will be many disappointments at the imperfect results achieved. That certain condition is thoroughness. If you want to fence chickens out of a garden, you don't stretch netting along 20 panels, leaving gaps here and there. You fence in the whole enclosure. So in spraying, to destroy the scab spores, the codling moth, and the numerous other fungi and insects, spray the whole tree, covering every twig, leaf and embryo fruit. Imperfect spraying will leave gaps through which much injury will be accomplished, and, in the case of the codling moth, will allow enough larvae to mature to form a destructive second brood (that is, of course, in sections where there are two broods in a season). The difference between ordinary and thorough work may easily mean the equivalent of the difference between No. 1 and No. 2 grade on half the crop. On a hundred-barrel crop that difference in grading would come to from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars per acre, the amount depending on the spread in price between the two grades. This estimate is not excessive, because thorough spraying will not only put more apples into the No. 1 grade, but will save many from being discarded as culls.

It is so easy for a beginner to slight the work