

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.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Thursday (52 issues per year). It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 20 cents per line agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearsages must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearsages are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, either by Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention.
9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
11. 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 Advocate, 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.
12. 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.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Impure Foods.

Each spring there has been noticed a continual deterioration in the quality of that commodity known to the trade as "maple syrup." A few years ago, when the idea of substituting a cheaper grade of sugar for the product of the maple tree was first tried, enough of the original genuine article was retained to give the final product a flavor very closely resembling that of actual maple sweet. But each succeeding year, as the supply of maple trees decreased and the market for maple syrup enlarged, the public has generally been weaned off the pure-grade syrup, and now takes, with the customary protest, an article insipid, inflated in price and untrue to name. It is not because this spurious article is particularly injurious to the health that we protest against its presence on the market and invoke the action of our legislators to deal with it as they have done with oleomargarine, but because a commodity is presented for sale under a false name, and under a name that tends to enhance its price beyond what its quality justifies, and by so doing injures the reputation and sale of an article—the product of the farm bush-lot—that has a decided value as a food. The "maple syrup" deception is only one of the instances that illustrate the necessity of a stringent pure-foods law, and the fixing of proper standards of purity.

Do You Want a Situation?

WITH ONE OF CANADA'S LEADING FARMERS OR STOCKMEN? THEY ALL READ THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE." AN ADVERTISEMENT IN OUR "WANT AND FOR SALE" COLUMN WILL NOT ESCAPE THEIR ATTENTION. SOME OF THEM WILL WANT YOU. TRY IT. SEE RATES UNDER THAT HEADING IN THIS PAPER. ADDRESS: THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, LONDON, ONT.

A Bill to Exempt Woodlands from Taxation.

A bill has been introduced in the Ontario Legislature by Mr. J. P. Downey, member for South Wellington, to empower township councils, by a two-thirds vote, to pass a by-law, exempting, in whole or in part, from municipal taxation, including school rates, unpastured woodlands, up to the extent of one acre in ten, not to exceed twenty-five acres under a single ownership. "Woodlands" are defined as lands having not less than 400 trees per acre, of all sizes, of one or more of the following sorts: White or Norway pine, white or Norway spruce, hemlock, tamarack, oak, ash, elm, hickory, basswood, tulip (whitewood), black cherry, black walnut, butter-nut, chestnut, hard maple, black locust or catalpa; said lands to have been set apart by the owner for the purpose of fostering the growth of trees thereon. Provision is made for cancelling the exemption in the event of non-fulfilment of conditions above set forth, and levying on the owner the amount of taxes from which he may have been exempted under the Act, against such by-law the owner to have right of appeal to the county judge.

The principle of the bill is, that a rebate of taxation, by affording a substantial inducement to preserve the woodland, will benefit the whole community. In a recent letter to the "Farmer's Advocate," Mr. J. J. Clark, Provincial Forester, quotes from the report of the Director of Forestry an estimate that in Middlesex and six adjoining counties the area of woodland decreased from 22 to 15 per cent. in the five years from 1896 to 1901, and we believe the devastation has proceeded still faster since. Tempted by the high prices of fuel and timber, many have slashed down acre after acre, thinking to enrich themselves with the crops from the "new land," reckless of the fact that, beyond a certain point, deforestation lessens the productiveness of the acres already cleared, to say nothing of its disastrous effect upon climate and landscape. Time was when every additional acre cleared was a benefit, lessening the danger of frost, depredations of wild animals, evils of isolation, etc. We have now got far to the other extreme, and cannot too soon take steps to conserve and increase our woodland protection.

Our only criticism of the bill is that it does not go far enough; that it would be better to fix the maximum area exempted at 15 or 20 per cent., and, indeed, there should be any limit at all. Some farmers have more than 10 per cent. of land in bush, and in such cases there will be a greater chance of conditions being observed if the exemption includes the total bush area of the farm, than if it covers only a part, as in the latter case the owner might be tempted to continue pasturing the taxed portion, and this would incline him to fence off the ten per cent., or forego the exemption privilege altogether. A stronger argument is that not all the farms of a township are equally adapted to timber production. There are many holdings which should be mainly under forest, while, with these as a protection, adjoining choice arable farms might well be cropped over their whole area.

The public interest demands reforestation of all rough, poor lands, no matter by whom owned. While half a loaf is better than no bread, we would like to see the public awakened so as to permit an early amendment extending the scope of the exemption. A proviso might well be inserted, though, restricting the operation of the proposed law to townships containing not over a specified area of forest, say 20 per cent. This would prevent the possible imposition of hardship in the newer sections, where insufficient clearing has, as yet, been done.

There is nothing at all unreasonable in the conditions of exemption. The clause providing for collection of back taxes is necessary, as otherwise some who had kept stock out of the bush a year or two to escape taxes, might defeat the whole purpose of exemption by turning in some season and letting them eat off the young trees. We trust the bill may receive on the part of every member of the House the consideration it deserves, that it may lead to further legislation towards the same end, and that other Provinces may follow Ontario's lead in this important matter.

HORSES.

Arab Blood.

Dr. D. R. Sowerby, V. S., writing to the London Live-stock Journal, says: "I have seen a note in your paper stating that Baron Hettler, of Russia, has discovered that the family of Arabian horses from which Darley Arabian came, and which was supposed to be extinct, is not extinct, and the only representatives of the family worthy of being called representatives are in the Oyster Bay stud. There are several representatives of the Darley Arabian much nearer England than those in the Oyster Bay stud. Gentleman John's dam, Bounce, H. S. B., No. 36, is a direct descendant on the sire's side. Pride of the Isle, H. S. B., No. 1104, his dam by Blaze, Blaze by Childers, and Childers by the Darley Arabian, brought over by Mr. Darley's brother to Yorkshire, who was an agent abroad, and through great interest procured this horse, Darley's Arabian, which was the sire of the following celebrated racers: Childers, Alamanzor, a horse also belonging to the Duke of Somerset, full brother to Alamanzor, a very fast horse; also Skipjack, Manica and Aleppo—all good horses out of bad mares. This information is from old pedigrees I have in my possession, some of them over one hundred years back; so that from the above you will see that all the good horses from Arab blood are not in the Oyster Bay district. Gentleman John will probably be known by some of the readers of your paper. As recently as the last London show there were several of his produce exhibited there, and having been exported across the Atlantic, there will be probably a good deal of Darley's Arabian blood in America as well as England, at exhibitions recently held in America Gentleman John and seven of his produce having won over 150 prizes."

Heavier Horses Wanted.

Not only in the cities, but on all the progressive farms of the land, there is a constantly increasing demand for heavy horses.

On many farms in the corn belt it is now no uncommon thing to see pairs of mares that weigh 3,600 to 4,000 pounds. Such stock, of course, can walk along with loads that would be impossible to ordinary light and medium weight horses.

The difficulties of the hired help question are constantly forcing to the front the question of more and better labor-saving machinery.

Large gang plows, wider mowers and reapers, call for more and heavier horses, and the farmers of the great West are finding out that it pays them better to have a few good big draft mares than a lot of light and medium weight stock of the express or 'bus type.

It takes four years to get horses to the marketable age, and, considering that fact, it behooves one all the more to pay attention to the quality and character of the breeding.

"You and I will never live to see horses sell as low in this country as we have seen them," said a Chicago horse dealer and exporter recently.

"During the horse depression in this country a few years ago prices got so low that horses by the thousands were sent to foreign countries. The people over there were surprised at the quality and character of the animals that we were able to send them, and, as a result, the American horse became so well advertised that our foreign demand was just beginning to assume enormous proportions when our home supplies began to run short. Since then values have run so high that foreigners could not afford to buy, but that is my main reason for feeling that we shall never in our lifetime see horses sell so low again. As soon as they settle down to a point that American producers think is low, they will be in demand again stronger than ever before to go to England and the European continent."

America can and ought to raise the heaviest and best horses in the world, and there is not much likelihood that prices for the desirable kinds will again be as low as they were eight or ten years ago. As soon as they get to the export level the export demand will be strong enough to take all the surplus.—[Live-stock World.]

The New York State Legislature has voted down a bill to prohibit docking, or the importation of docked horses, except for temporary exhibition purposes. The Horse World denounces the practice of docking horses' tails as barbarous, and says it exists only by the support of the fashionable and wealthy classes.

I received the reading glass and microscope very promptly, just two days after I sent the subscription. They are both very fine. ADA KNEAL.
Oxford Co., Ont.