

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.

- 1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** 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 practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, 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 FARMER'S 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 and questions will receive no attention. In every case the FULL NAME and POST-OFFICE ADDRESS MUST BE GIVEN.
- 9. **WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED** to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.
- 10. **LETTERS** intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
- 11. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
- 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.

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

difference in the productive value of different ears of corn of the same variety, selected from the same field, in the same year, and that look so nearly alike that no man can tell which will be the most productive, except by actual test, that the difference in production from the seed of these apparently-similar ears, planted on good ground, in the same field, on the same day, and given equally good cultivation, may be anywhere from ten to thirty bushels an acre. Another clearly-established fact is that seed of apparently equal quality will do better under the environment in which it was grown than under any other environment; in other words, that the corn that is grown nearest home, on similar land, will do better than corn of the same variety that is grown at a distance. For example, Leaming corn, grown at the Nebraska Experiment Station from corn grown in Nebraska, yielded 82.5 bushels on an average for two years, while Leaming brought from Illinois yielded 72.3 bushels, or a difference of 10 bushels in favor of the home-grown seed. It has also been proven that there is a considerable difference even in counties, seed of the same variety brought from a distant county in the same State producing much less than home-grown seed under similar conditions of soil and cultivation.

Another point to which our corn-growing farmers must give attention, if they would secure the best results, is the testing of their seed corn for germination before planting, as it is claimed, from experience and observation, that the outward appearance of the ear is no measure of its value for seed, and that no one can tell the germinating power of corn until he has actually tested it.

When we reflect that the bulk of the seed corn planted in this country is purchased at a distance, without a pretence at inquiries as to whether any selection of ears has been practiced, most of it having lain for months in heaps in the shelled state, exposed to the heating process, and planted without previous test for germination, the wonder is that our people have had as much success in

corn-growing as they have. It is clear that, from the neglect of the precautions indicated, our country has had no fair chance to show what are its possibilities in the production of this valuable crop. Doubtless there are a few enterprising growers in the most favored sections who have given attention to the selection, care and testing of their seed corn, and such are earnestly invited to contribute for publication in the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" the results of their experience, in order that light may be thrown upon the question of the production of this most interesting and valuable farm crop.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

The great revolution which has been steadily progressing in matters of dress in the Orient, is given as chiefest of the many causes which have tended to the general activity which in late years has so distinguished the wool trade in English-speaking countries. Japan, accommodating herself rapidly to European ideas in this particular, as in many others, gave it a decided impulse a few years ago when she donned pantaloons, and in her steady and extending demand for woollens ever since, has kept up the good times of antebellum days. Previously wool fetched such inferior prices that few Westerners thought of engaging in the sheep business from this point of view alone. To the pastoralists of the Australasias and some other of the South American Republics, the wool trade looked for its raw materials. As an adjunct of mixed farming, the golden-hoofed sheep was, unfortunately, disappearing. The ranches of the Western States may have enlarged under corporate influences, and possibly the same thing might be said of some instances in our own Northwest; but communities in the Eastern States and Older Canada, which had raised sheep from the pioneer days forward, now saw them disappear as if by magic, and the memory of the gentle animal almost entirely forgotten in a year. These Maritime Provinces were in a like position. Almost unconsciously they fell out of our husbandry. Fencing, many thought, was not to be done for the values then offered for sheep. The meat was cheap, and wool worth little or nothing.

At this stage the American lamb-purchaser discovered us, and in a comparatively short time the price of those animals mounted from 2½ to 5 cents on the hoof. This change, and the money flowing into the coffers of the few sheep-keepers left, caused the farmers to hark back; and when it became absolutely necessary to find an excuse for so general an abandonment, apart from the difficulty of fencing, which was no excuse at all, they fell back with one accord on the dog. Neither of these causes can be pleaded with any show of general success. The mixed farmer simply forgot his cunning, and in a period of low prices sacrificed a friend of the oldest possible standing, and one which had even in poor days cost him little or nothing to keep. There is now, however, a return to sheep-keeping on a moderate scale all round. There is an unlimited demand for Maritime mutton or lamb, and that demand it will be hard to overdo in the present state of affairs, with a steadily-increasing population and a fair measure of good times. Meat will sell at prices to make it worth the while to raise sheep then, and the other article of wool, apparently, may soar out of sight at any time, so great is the promising demand for it from every manufacturing center.

In this connection, it may be well to mention that the immense Empire of China has at last, it is thought, responded to the leaven of Western civilization, long within it, and will shortly garb herself after the French fashion, to which we have all been long subjected. This means a wonderful change in the material as well as the form of Oriental costuming. The army alone will make demands on our looms which it will take years to satisfy. A still greater boom in wool production than even that of late years may be expected. This has got to make itself felt on the sheep industry in general very markedly, and hence we hear more every day of the desirability of breeding a class of animal which will produce the

most and best meat and the most and best wool, at the same time. We have several excellent breeds of sheep which it will pay mixed farmers to keep pure and breed as extensively as their circumstances will permit. Following the example of Nova Scotia, which had a big sale of imported males at Canso last fall, and could not supply the demand, it would be well if the other Maritime Governments made an effort to help on this revival in sheep-raising within their limits, by the early introduction of new blood in the shape of standard-bred males. Nothing will give better results.

In the January report of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Commercial Agent Jackson, Leeds and Hull, thus speaks of the activity of British looms and the cause of it:

"There is very much in the present state of the woollen trade of the West Riding pointing to a boom. Last year's demand was much above the average in almost all branches, and the demand has remained very steady and continuous. A notable feature of the industry for some months past has been the extraordinary demands of China, whilst those of Japan have likewise been encouraging. The present Chinese requirements are so extensive and varied that it can only be assumed that China, following in the lead of her progressive neighbor, is about to adopt the Western style of dress. This would certainly seem to be the case in relation to the army, as some of the largest orders are for army cloth, similar to that which the Japs obtained, viz., a plain, dyed, heavy woollen. The rest of the demands mainly comprise cotton warp meltons, vicunas in black and blue, and plain worsted serges of a coarse quality."

There should be no longer any hesitation on the part of our people to repair the loss a sudden relinquishment of sheep-raising has caused them, by securing the nucleus of new flocks and expanding them as rapidly as their circumstances will admit. There is no limit to the demand for Maritime lambs, and whether the wool market keeps up long or not, those good times and the demands of those Oriental nations upon it must keep it firm and profitable for years to come. The Legislatures are now in session all over the land, and if there is anything serious in the dog cry, by all means let proper protection be afforded this important industry by statute.

A. E. BURKE.

SEND US PARTICULARS.

Since the publication of the article, "Warning to the Unwary," in "The Farmer's Advocate" for Feb 14th, we have received numbers of letters from readers calling our attention to a variety of "Get-Rich-Quick" propositions which had been made them through the mails and otherwise. In order to further aid in putting the people on their guard and preventing the operations of the persons behind these schemes, we desire our readers, and others as well, to send us at once the original letters of all such proposals that they or other persons in the vicinity may have received. We need hardly add that these are not necessarily for publication, and in no case will the name or post-office address of the recipient be made known.

It might have been supposed that the decrease in breeding of sheep for mutton and lamb in Australia would have reduced the average weight of the fleece. According to a table quoted from an authority not sufficiently identified by a New Zealand contemporary, however, this is not the case. It is stated that the wool from 100,930-418 sheep in 1894 amounted to 1,608,000 bales, or 15½ bales per 1,000, while in 1905 the produce of 74,527,444 sheep was 1,420,006 bales of wool, or 19½ bales per 1,000. It is suggested that, although this increase in the weight of the fleece is mainly due to the skill and enterprise of breeders, something should be allowed for the abundant feed available in the last two or three years in the lightly-stocked countries of the Commonwealth.

The wool clip of the United States during the year which has just closed indicates a remarkable increase in the consumptive demand for wool in that country, the total crop being estimated at 312,097,518 pounds.