

## 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.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and 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.
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have a very detrimental effect upon the horse-breeding industry of Canada. Many mares which should have been raising colts next year were not bred in 1915, and many more will be allowed to miss in 1916. Also, as is the usual case when the horse market is dull, many farmers use the poorer class of sires because they can get the use of them cheaper, and this in itself is a blow to the business. What should be done when the demand is slow is to use nothing but the very best and be sure of a horse which will be saleable at some price, but almost invariably the opposite course is taken and the horse industry is injured thereby. Prompt action is necessary to do justice to the Canadian farmer and to the horse-breeding industry.

### Neglected Training.

Some farmers lose for themselves many dollars by neglecting the early training of their live stock. We have attended a large number of sales in our time where the live stock offered was not sold to the best advantage, because it appeared wild in the sale ring and had never been broken to lead properly on the halter. As a general thing, on the farm, horses are the only class of stock well broken to lead, but it is almost equally important that the cattle, particularly the breeding stock and especially pure-bred breeding stock, should be broken to lead as calves and be accustomed to walking along quietly on the halter, showing no nervousness, and, at the same time, making the best appearance to the observer. It cuts one-third the price off pure-bred stock when it must be turned loose in the ring and bolls here and there, from side to side, practically unmanageable. It would only require a short time each day during the winter months to break calves to lead, and once broken, they never forget it. Then the animal may be stood where desired, and may be handled without needless running and injury to itself as well as more work for the attendant. The other day we saw a colt coming four years old which has never had

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the harness on, and which is running loose in a box stall, having never been broken to lead properly. This colt, if offered for sale under such conditions, would not bring anywhere near his value. He is another case of neglected training. No colt should ever reach the age of weaning from its dam before it has had at least some training at leading and handling. These things cannot be forced upon the stock when they get older, but if done at the proper time give the animals more confidence in their attendants and reduce their nervousness to a minimum, make them better feeders, more docile, more valuable as breeders, and the training stands their owner in good stead if they are chance to be offered for sale at auction or otherwise. The same is true to a lesser degree with sheep and pigs. A buyer always likes to see sheep quiet, and accustomed to being handled, and he does not care to purchase breeding pigs which are literally "as wild as hawks." The best stockman gives all the stock an early training in being handled, and teaches them not to be afraid of the attendant, but rather to trust him. The colts are led, harnessed and driven at an early age. The cattle are all taught the meaning of the halter in calfhood, and the sheep and pigs walk toward the attendant rather than run away from him. Do not neglect the early training of your live stock.

### Foundations for 1916.

A building is never stronger than its foundation, and the farmer should, at the present time, be laying the foundations for his work in 1916. The best farmers of the twentieth century are thinkers, and a good deal of the thinking, planning and arranging for the work of the year must be done during the first three months of that year in order that the remainder may turn out to the best advantage for the busy tiller of the soil. Crop rotations may have to be altered to suit changing conditions. Labor grows scarcer and will be increasingly scarce during the coming summer, and it will be necessary for the farmer to so lay the foundations of his work that most of it can be accomplished by himself and the help he has with in his own home or through co-operation with his neighbors. It is this point upon which we wish to dwell. The social conditions in the country are not what they once were. Bees and the interchange of farm help have been growing scarcer each year, until about the only time one farmer helps another is at threshing and silo filling season. It would be a good thing if farmers in the different communities would get together this winter, at their Farmers' Club meetings, literary or social gatherings, or would call special meetings for the purpose of discussing how best to meet conditions during the coming year. Where neighbor plans to help neighbor, a great deal more work can very often be accomplished than where each works by himself. We would say that co-operation between farmers in a very local way should be made one of the corner stones of the foundation for 1916 farm work, and again we would advise that farmers attend all agricultural meetings held in their district, in order that they may keep abreast of what is going on, and so avail themselves of any hints that may be thrown out whereby they might improve their own conditions during the coming year. There seems to be a sort of apathy toward public meetings in the rural districts. People have lost the old-time interest in gatherings, even those of a social nature. Personal contact with other people always elevates the man who is capable of sifting the wheat from the chaff. By all means do not neglect the reading of the latest agricultural literature. The excuse is often heard these days, that with all his work the farmer has no time to read agricultural papers, and agricultural bulletins, and other literature of the farm, because all his spare time is taken up in becoming familiar with war news. We cannot afford to allow the doings in France and Flanders and on the other fronts, which doings are so variously reported day after day, to entirely abstract our minds from what we should know regarding agricultural operations in our own country, because so much of the suc-

cess of our army depends upon the efficiency of our farmers, and how well it is applied. Plan rotations, plan cultivation, plan for more and better live stock, plan co-operation with neighbors, plan more social intercourse, plan for better times, better farming and higher returns. Now is the time, by planning, to strengthen the foundation for the 1916 effort. Success to all!

### John Hay and the German Conspiracy.

A vivid side light from the American point of view on the international machinations of Germany is thrown by "The Life of John Hay," one of the really important biographical works of the past year. With the advantage of a liberal education he enjoyed at an early day the singular privilege of being Secretary to probably the greatest of all Americans, Abraham Lincoln, during the four year's war period, when the President was hampered with all sorts of ill-advised designs organized and otherwise for a peace that would have proven inconclusive, and mischievous for an age to come by abandoning the great cause involved in the conflict. But Lincoln was too wise and resolute a man to be swayed by weak-kneed advisers. Subsequently, Hay became Secretary to the U. S. legations at Paris, Vienna, and Madrid, an editor on the New York Tribune, Ambassador to Great Britain, and Secretary of State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt, directing the peace negotiations with Spain and other critical affairs. He was, therefore, in a position to understand the intricacies of European affairs about as well as any one man could, and early became profoundly distrustful of the Pan-German policy which has now precipitated in the most terrific conflict of all history. He was one of the very few who diagnosed it as a conspiracy or intrigue against the United States and other powers, although he probably could not perceive all its ramifications, nor the time and place of its outbreak. He saw German teaching and organization gradually permeating the United States, until to-day it seems powerful enough to almost hold the Washington Government in leash. As early as 1896, Hay resisted German designs calculated to favor Spain. Part and parcel of the plottings were the Kaiser's secret negotiations to secure two harbors off the coast of Lower California and to occupy various South American ports. President Roosevelt met him squarely, and Secretary Hay was in no wise fooled when Prince Henry of Prussia was sent to America on a policy of blandishments, and the war emperor was firmly met on all points. From time to time, as the Kaiser began to rattle his scabbard, Hay realized more and more clearly the danger that menaced civilization, but the world, as a whole, took a more complaisant attitude. It is sometimes urged that had the alarming view of John Hay been more generally credited and greater military preparations made, the final Pan-German blow might have been averted. From what has come to light of the malevolent character of the Kaiser and his war lords, and the calculating devilry with which their plans have been executed, they would probably have redoubled their preparations, and the delayed blow would have only been the more savage when it came. Germany having played false to every instinct of humanity and every international obligation—stands a convicted outlaw before the bar of humanity, and the very unpreparedness, if so it is to be described, of France, Great Britain and others, is their vindication to-day and will be in history. It was not within the ken even of John Hay to foresee the tragedy of Belgium and Serbia, Armenia and Poland, for which from Germany comes no sign of shame or remorse, no suggestion of compassion or restitution. What can the Ford pilgrims hope from such a power? The most colossal national robber and assassin in all history, Kaiserism, with the blood upon its hands and the stolen territories under foot would like to be left in guilty possession by an early peace, but her crimes cry out for punishment, and her conduct has whetted the sword of justice without which the world might just as well be surrendered to a reign of anarchy and the laws of the jungle, where wild beasts prey upon each other until the most ruthless survive.

The farmer who has a hired man not physically fit for the front will be about the only one to have help next harvest. There is an even more urgent business on at the front than harvesting, and yet our farms must be worked, and must produce abundantly. There is always hard work ahead of the farmer, and he deserves credit for the way he overcomes obstacles.

The practical knowledge of stock-feeding is far more valuable than that built upon reading the advice of other feeders, but an account of what another has done often helps a feeder to overcome some of the obstacles standing between him and success.