

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and
Succeed."

Established
1866.

Vol. XLV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JUNE 23, 1910

No. 926

EDITORIAL.

Hot Weather Editorials.

A million and a half acres more wheat than in 1909! As a wheat-producing country, the Dominion is creeping up.

The triumphal series of ovations accorded ex-President Roosevelt in Europe is easily explained. He was believed to be the realization of what the public wants in its statesmen.

Alfalfa gains favor steadily in every Province in Canada, but especially in Ontario, where many correspondents of the Dominion crop-reporting service make note of the increase. We should have at least ten times our present acreage of this queen of forage crops.

As between the Canadian scheme of Government annuities, encouraging thrift, developing self-reliance, and the British plan of old-age pensions, there can scarcely be room for difference of opinion. Sir Richard Cartwright has linked his name with an excellent idea, already being wrought into effect.

Compared with last year, the 1910 preliminary summary of United States crop conditions, dated June 1st, shows an increase of 2.5 per cent. in winter wheat, 7.3 per cent. in spring wheat, 4.1 per cent. in aggregate of both kinds of wheat, 3.5 per cent. in oats, and 6.2 per cent. in clover for hay, and small increases in barley, rye and cotton.

It is a crying shame and a grave reflection on the discernment of our people that communities should be gradually forsaken, schools and churches broken up, and hundred-acre tracts of splendid land in certain counties of Western Ontario given over to the least productive form of husbandry, the grazing of cattle on large farms. Perhaps the white grub and wireworm, by destroying the pastures, will break up the ranches and compel a return to a more productive line of farming.

If the devastation wrought by wireworms and white grubs last summer and this, in the meadows and other field crops of Western Ontario, lead some of us to the adoption of short rotation as a general practice, bracing in clover once every three or four years, it will prove more beneficial than harmful. Short rotation is the chief hope of keeping these two pests in check. Incidentally, such a rotation will increase the product of our acres and contribute to the cleaning and enrichment of our fields.

Dr. Rutherford is again urging the establishment of municipal abattoirs, to insure by thorough inspection, the same standard of soundness and wholesomeness in meat for local consumption that we now guarantee in that for interprovincial and export trade. By and by, when people get tired eating meat from animals affected with abscesses, dropsy, jaundice, pneumonia, tumors and erysipelas, not to mention tuberculosis and slick veal, our citizens will insist on the establishment of these abattoirs, where food animals may be slaughtered under inspection both before and after death.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

The kind of national celebration which kills 46 and injures 1,575 in one day, as occurred in the United States on July 1th last, springs not from patriotism, but from insanity or lack of mental and temperamental balance. Some of the saner American magazines and newspapers, realizing this, are pleading for a less dangerous "Deadly Fourth." A number of cities abated the nuisance last year, and the movement for a sensible and peaceable observance of natal anniversaries will spread. Fortunately, we have not gone to such lengths in Canada, thanks to the more moderate and cool-headed character of our people.

Eggs, says Prof. F. C. Elford, have two values—an intrinsic value and a relative value. The intrinsic value of two cases may be the same, yet the one, put up tastefully in assorted sizes and colors, with all the eggs spotlessly clean, and exhibiting a brand with a reputation behind it, may easily command a premium of 5 cents a dozen upwards from discriminating customers over an irregular assortment of large and small, white and brown, clean and dirty, with the usual uncertainty as to the quality of the lot. The same principle applies to box versus barrel packing of choice apples. In fact, it enters largely into the marketing of all produce, but particularly that which is intended for the table.

A number of agricultural societies in Ontario were prevented from holding a field-crop competition in alfalfa this year by the Departmental regulation which stipulates, as a condition of assistance, that only one crop be taken up by a society in any one year. Many of the societies, having selected a generally-grown crop, like oats, before the alfalfa contest was specially recommended to them, felt they would be hardly justified in changing to a crop like alfalfa, in which comparatively few are interested, so they let it stand over for a year. This suggests the advisability of enlarging the grant, with a special view to the encouragement of alfalfa, so that each society which elects to do so may have two competitions next year, one in oats, wheat or other grain, and one in alfalfa. Dr. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, suggests that the time is ripe for a propaganda by the Ontario Department of Agriculture in the encouragement of alfalfa, and what better means than this?

If you had a carload of bran standing out in the field, would you be willing to leave it there, needlessly exposed to days of sunshine, to nights of dew and showers of rain, till a third of it was wasted, and the rest seriously injured in feeding value? If necessary that it be raked up and carefully cured in piles, would you count it too much expense and trouble to provide canvas covers to protect in some measure from bleaching and waste? Yet millions of farmers every year manifest comparative indifference about the saving of a more valuable feed than bran, to wit: alfalfa leaves. Pound for pound, they are considerably more valuable than wheat bran. Hay that is not handled with the utmost care loses many of these leaves in the making, and those left are often bleached or sunburned to a crisp, till they become about as palatable as burnt toast. The same remarks apply to clover, only in less degree, because clover is a less valuable feed than alfalfa. Realizing these facts, is it not worth considering whether the curing of alfalfa hay, and curing it under vacuum hay caps, would not pay?

Men and Cattle of Character.

The breed of cattle now popularly known everywhere as Shorthorns have been indissolubly associated with the progress of good farming in Canada. For that and other reasons, therefore, readers of "The Farmer's Advocate" in this country and abroad will observe with peculiar satisfaction the commencement in this issue of a series of signed articles appropriately entitled, "Honor Roll of Shorthorns in Canada." Because of its absolute justness, it will be permissible to say (when it is done by another), that these annals constitute a truly notable contribution to Canadian live-stock literature, by a pen overflowing with facts, and yet not so overburdened as to make their recital a mere catalogue, unrelieved by the charm of personal reminiscence, garbed in the expressive vehicle of easy and lucid English. The makers of history are not always conscious of the greatness of the part they are playing. But Time reveals it, and any country, or any adventure in human effort that expects to live, should preserve these individual records that link the present with the past. History is the record of individual and collective endeavor, often inaccurate and inadequate because the writers are so far removed from the events. Biography, or autobiography ought to be better in that respect. It is, then, most fortunate for Canadian agriculture that an actual contemporary and participant in some of these long-past events and achievements is able to invest the story of them with a living interest to the present, thus rounding out, as it were, in greater completeness the record in the periodical, the pages of which he has so long enriched. These articles will not only repay close perusal, but deserve careful preservation. Pure-bred live stock in the nineteenth century gave name and prestige to this country as no other branch of farming did. The show-ring, the sale-ring, and the market confirmed the judgment of the capacity of men who had vision enough to see in a great cosmopolitan race of cattle, in live-stock husbandry, and in progressive methods, a splendid and enduring future for the Upper Canada of those days. They well and truly laid the foundation of the Greater Ontario of the present, and cast in a leaven, the quickening influences of which, in the shape of men and cattle of character, have permeated the whole Dominion, and to whose sons we now look for such displays of intelligence and courage as will add lustre to the past, by solving the problems of Century Number Twenty.

The Immigrants We Need.

At last it has come—the protest of the British press and public against our discrimination among prospective immigrants. The criticism has been directed almost exclusively at two regulations, the first requiring adult immigrants coming to employment other than farm work or domestic service to have in their possession at time of landing \$25.00, or \$12.50 in case of children accompanying families, besides railway transportation to ultimate destination; the second, providing that the consent to emigrate to Canada (required by law to be granted by the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration for Canada, in London, Eng., to such charity-aided emigrants as he considers suitable to this country), shall be given only to such as are suited for, willing to accept, and have assured employment at farm work. A strong agitation is being carried on to have these regulations, which we in Canada consider necessary to prevent an influx of pauper immigration, abolished or altered.

Every fair-minded Canadian must appreciate