

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 or parties, handsomely
illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most
practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland,
Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in
advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United
States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.

3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 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
arrearages must be made as required by law.

5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held respon-
sible until all arrearages are paid and their paper ordered to be
discontinued.

6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, 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. 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.

satisfied with his income from the farm needs to
think seriously as to whether or not his farm is
planned right for the largest returns, remembering
that good farming calls for keeping up the pro-
ductiveness of the farm while getting maximum
crops economically from the soil.

Sparrow Matches.

"Are rats and sparrows common in Canada?"
inquires our Scottish correspondent. Surely he
means it as a joke! All over Eastern Canada
they are indeed common, while last fall the vor-
acious rodents made their way into the Prairie
region of the Dominion. As for sparrows, they
are like fleas on a dog's back, and, if anything,
rather harder to exterminate. The discussion on
that question in these columns last winter sug-
gested shooting, poisoning and prizes to children
for destruction of nests as among the most ef-
fective means of keeping them in check. Some-
times sparrow matches are got up by the young
men of a neighborhood, the side bringing in the
fewest dead sparrows having to pay for the big
supper arranged for. One method of securing
birds used by some of these young fellows is to
station one of their number close to a corner in
the barn, with a lantern held close to his left
side under his coat, in such a way that the light
will shine only on a small space in the corner.
His fellows stir up the birds in the barn, which
seeing the bright light in the corner, fly to it,
mistaking it for an opening, and are caught by
hand and killed as they strike.

As part of the value given subscribers to "The
Farmer's Advocate" is a superb Christmas Num-
ber. Some other publishers charge twenty-five or
fifty cents extra for their special holiday numbers.
We give, as an enthusiastic reader put it last
year, "A far better one for nothing."

Free Renewal and Clubbing Rates.

As a large number of subscriptions to
this paper expire with the end of the year,
renewal time will soon arrive for a good
many thousand readers. Of course, prac-
tically everyone wants the paper con-
tinued, and the great majority can easily
afford the comparatively small sum of
\$1.50 per year. There are those, however,
in straitened circumstances, to whom every
dollar looks big. To do without the paper
would be penny-wise-and-pound-foolish, but
they eagerly appreciate an opportunity to
earn their renewal by a little missionary
work in the interest of "The Farmer's Ad-
vocate" and better agriculture. Indeed,
many who would not trouble themselves for
the monetary consideration alone will take
a hand for the good of the cause. It is
by such loyal support of appreciative read-
ers that "The Farmer's Advocate" has
been built up to the position it occupies to-
day.

To encourage and reward our friends in
the good work, we offer these very favor-
able terms for clubs of new names. Every
present bona-fide subscriber who sends us
the names of two new yearly subscribers,
accompanied by \$3.00, may have his own
subscription extended twelve months. If
he secures more than two new names, he
need remit only \$1.00 for the third and
each subsequent one, retaining 50 cents out
of the \$1.50 collected as a cash commis-
sion, to recoup him for his trouble. This
works out as follows: Send

\$3.00	for 2 new names and your renewal.
4.00	" 3 " " " "
5.00	" 4 " " " "
6.00	" 5 " " " "
7.00	" 6 " " " "

And so on. Remember that all the names
but your own must be the names of new
subscribers, persons who have not taken
the paper for at least 12 months previous.
A man who stops for a few weeks, and then
starts again, is not regarded as a new
subscriber. Neither is it permissible for
one member of a family to drop the paper,
in order that another in the same house-
hold may come in as a new subscriber.
Such is contrary to both the spirit and the
letter of our offer. We want to get the
paper into new homes.

Every farmer in Canada needs "The
Farmer's Advocate." Thousands don't
get it. It is your business and privilege
to get after these men, convince them, and
get their names and money before they sign
for other papers. If they are taking others,
they need this one, anyway. There is no
substitute for "The Farmer's Advocate."
It is surprising what can be done by ener-
getic canvass, even in districts where a
large proportion are already getting the
paper. One man, working in Oxford and
Perth Counties, in districts where the best
farmers are already on our lists, secured,
on one concession, seven out of nine men
called upon; in another, thirteen out of
fifteen, and so on. Names can be secured
in almost any locality, if it is gone about
in the right way. Now is the time to
work.

About 365 Different Rates.

Discussing the matter of Bell connection for
independent telephone companies, an officer of one
of these in Durham County, Ont., remarks:

"The Railway Commission has recently had
two cases before them re rural connection, and in
both cases it has been left to mutual agreement,
the agreement to be filed at the office of Railway
Board, but to a recent date has not been received.
Parliament should enact that all telephone agree-
ments should be recorded with the Railway Board;
it would be valuable data. Take the agreement
of 5c. per call; it never appealed to us as being

fair. Let me illustrate: One farmer lives on the
outskirts of a town; his blacksmith, carpenter,
drover, grocer and railway station is situated in
a town with a Bell franchise. Another farmer
living, say, eight miles from the same town, gets
his work and supplies in a village. The result
is apparent. One would have to pay a long-
distance price, plus maintaining local system; his
fellow subscriber only the local system, and rare
calls to town. I regretted very much that so few
secretaries responded to your invitation to give
an account of their system and prices charged for
maintenance and connection. It is the only way
at present known that each will get the best price
and all have it, for the Bell Co. have as many
different prices as there are days in the year."

HORSES.

J. F. Ryan, Manager of the Canadian National
Bureau of Breeding, recently purchased and shipped
to Canada, from Kentucky, for private sale, 12
brood mares, by such fashionable sires as Imp.
Escher, Imp. Meddler, Imp. Galore, Sir Dixon, and
Go-Between.

In 1900, there was an average of 24 horses
(mules included) on farms, and 12 persons engaged
in agricultural pursuits to every 1,000 acres of
farm lands; similarly, in 1890, there was an
average of 28 horses and 13 persons; in 1880,
23 horses and 14 persons; in 1870, 20 horses;
in 1860, 18 horses, and in 1850, 17 horses. These
figures are based upon U. S. census returns.

Evidence of increased demand for Canadian
horses at home is well shown in the British
horse import figures for last year. Times were
when buyers travelled Eastern Canada picking
up big, drafty horses at rather small prices, and
exporting them to Britain. In the same way,
large numbers of Canadian horses found market
in the United States. According to British figures
for the year just closed, Canadian supplies num-
bered 97 head, and sold at an average of \$255.50
each. This is a reduction in Canadian imports
in 1908-1909, of 12.61 per cent. Canada ex-
ported to the United States, in 1909, 2,116 horses,
at an average price of \$175.

Type and Judging.

Just at this time of year we hear a good deal
of harsh criticism of the decisions given by judges
at the recent fall fairs. Of course, a good deal
of it is according to the old saying, "not worth a
dog's notice," but it is also true that some of it
is only too well merited. This is chiefly due to
the fact that the judge does not have a very clear
idea of his duty—either because he is not a com-
petent judge, or because he is hampered with silly
and useless regulations of uninformed directors.
The directors in making out the prize-list do
their part to hinder the judge, by inserting the
clause, "value to be considered," and, of course,
this is generally taken to mean "money value."
The judge "does his bidding," and places the
most valuable animal first, regardless of the fact
that another individual in the class is a much
better animal, though for different reasons is not
so valuable—age, perhaps, being the chief reason
for short value. I have quite frequently asked
the judge why he placed such and such an animal
first—not from the standpoint of a kicker, but
from the standpoint of an interested onlooker, who
desires to learn more. His reply has been, "The
first-prize animal is the most valuable, or "The
second-prize one was older" (in a brood-mare
class), or "The first-prize horse had more speed"
(in the single-roadster class).

Now, let us see how this works out. Horses,
like everything else, are often shown in the wrong
class. We have on record a Clydesdale stallion
that can trot a mile in 2.30 (two minutes and
thirty seconds). Suppose he is shown in the
single-roadster class, and none of the other en-
tries can trot that fast, the judge referred to
above would award first prize to him. Yet he is
just as much out of class as he would be with
Jersey calves, and should have no prize whatever
in that class. In another part of the country,
in the single-roadster class, we find a large car-
riage horse (as near perfect in conformation as
we can find one), which shows good, square, high
action, and is worth \$300. He is shown against
a gelding built after the pattern of Dan Patch,
or Mambrino King, having lower stride and more
speed than the other, but valued at \$250. The
judge, who gives first prize to the most valuable
animal, rates the carriage horse first, though he
is not a roadster at all, and has no right in that
class. Next we look at the roadster brood mares.
Among them is a mare 15 years old, sound in
every respect, but in conformation and appear-
ance resembles very closely Miss K. Wilks' Rea W.
—a genuine roadster. Her age makes her worth
\$150 or less. Alongside of her is a mare of gen-
eral-purpose conformation, except that she is light