

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL  
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2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely  
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practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy  
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication  
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FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of  
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that it cannot co-operate intelligently, as the  
Danes have done. They have set an example to  
the world in the results achieved by a farseeing  
and intelligently selfish policy of each for all and  
all for each. Surely we can follow their pilots  
and avoid the shoals of destruction, among which  
looms up close to the surface, but yet sunken be-  
low the water-line, the rocky bed of speculation.

## TRAINING TEACHERS FOR RURAL SCHOOLS.

Without entering into a technical consideration  
of the respective merits of graded and ungraded  
public schools, the fact might as well be recog-  
nized that the rural schools of the country be-  
long, for the most part, to the latter class, and  
will so continue, save where consolidation may  
make its way. Intelligent parents and others  
who have had opportunities of judging the re-  
sults of the two systems, are not slow to affirm  
that, in the qualities of self-reliance, general  
knowledge and resourcefulness, the product of the  
ungraded rural school outclasses the graduates of  
the graded town institution, though there may be  
in the case other factors than that of the grad-  
ing alone.

But it is from the student ranks of the graded  
city and town schools that a considerable pro-  
portion of those who take charge of rural schools  
are drawn, and, by experience, they are unac-  
quainted with the conditions of the schools over  
which they are to preside as teachers. Herein  
lies one of the weaknesses of the Ontario system  
of Normal Schools, which are located in the cities,  
and hence the teacher-training and observation of  
the "Normalites" has not in the past afforded  
them preparatory rural-school opportunities; and  
even when these prospective teachers originally  
came from the country, part, at least, of this ad-  
vantage has become nullified by the preparatory  
city experience. Under these and other condi-  
tions, to which attention has been called in these  
columns, are due the unfortunate tendencies and

results of the rural-school work, which have at  
last arrested consideration, and a number of ef-  
forts are being made looking towards the reforms  
so urgently needed. As another step in this di-  
rection, it has been decided by the Ontario Edu-  
cation Department to make a change in the in-  
struction of prospective rural-school teachers at-  
tending the Normal Schools by affiliating a num-  
ber of rural ungraded schools in the adjoining  
districts with the Normal School, for observation  
purposes. The professors in the Normal Schools  
will likewise be required to spend one week in  
each year accompanying the Public-school Inspect-  
or on his visits to the rural schools. By this  
means, it is hoped that both staff and students  
will be kept in touch with the rural schools, and,  
with a modified curriculum, revised text-books,  
and greater attention to advanced work in con-  
tinuation classes, we shall see a new spirit in-  
fused in the rural school that will do something  
to stay the everlasting drift cityward, and aid in  
the more rational training of the rising genera-  
tion of soil-tillers and home-makers.

## A CRITICAL PERIOD FOR THE FARMER'S SON.

For many a farmer's son this will be a critical  
winter. The harvest and root crop have been  
gathered in, the fall plowing will soon be done,  
and with the completion of this work there comes  
a pause that will mean the testing of many a boy's  
true mettle. These leisure days and the long  
hours around the lamp do not mean so much for  
the youth of seventeen or eighteen, as he may  
have found his place; nor will they mean so much  
for the boy on the sunny side of his 'teens, for he  
is still under the direction of his parents or his  
teachers, and he has had no occasion to think for  
himself. But for the boy who is neither boy nor  
man, who feels himself too long for short pants  
and too short for trousers, whose voice is croaky  
and uncertain, this winter, with its opportunities  
for thinking, and its leisure for acting on his own  
initiative, will mean a deal more than either boy  
or parents will ever fully know. Some people  
smile at this period, and describe it as the agoniz-  
ing age of human puppyhood. At the same time,  
all who know anything of human nature recognize  
it as a perilous period, and for the farmer's son  
its most testing hours come in the winter months,  
when the thronging farm duties are less onerous  
and the boy has a chance to spend his time more  
or less as he likes.

Happy, indeed, is such a boy if he can find his  
way to a school presided over by a teacher pos-  
sessed of the blessed gift of lighting up his pupils'  
spirits. Views of a new life are looming up on  
the boy's horizon. In a dim way he is dis-  
cerning the purpose of his existence. How im-  
portant, therefore, that he be under the guidance  
of a teacher who will inculcate right views of life  
and duty, and who will inspire him with a  
genuine love for a good education. Every means  
should be taken to remind him that he cannot get  
very far without a good schooling. For the edu-  
cational privileges open to nearly every Canadian,  
and which may be had simply for the using, some  
of the world's best and greatest have made sacri-  
fices before which generations have walked with  
uncovered heads, and it is nothing short of a  
calamity for a boy to go through the years when  
he most needs direction, untutored and unbe-  
friended. A year wasted at this period will not  
be made up later on, because it cannot be made  
up.

The boy, at this period of his life, who is  
obliged to be away from home has a harder bat-  
tle, but he need not despair of victory. Indeed,  
his very absence from home may be made to turn  
to his advantage, provided only he have the nec-  
essary backbone. At any cost, he must shun the  
idle, lounging, vulgar, story-telling class. In  
many cases this may seem to be the forfeiting of  
all companionship, but the boy who prefers no  
company at all to companions who will help him  
downwards will not long lack for friends of the  
right sort. Some foolish people may be inclined  
to ignore him because of his poverty; but this  
need cause him no worry, as snobs and cads  
never were much benefit to anyone except the  
tailor or baker. An open eye, a willing hand, a  
reputation for trustworthiness, together with an  
unextinguishable desire to improve, will work  
wonders. Add to this strict economy of wages  
and time, and the boy of fourteen may hope, in  
ten years or less, to have a home of his own.

In a sense, our leisure tests all of us, but in a  
very special way does it test a boy just merging  
into manhood. Those of us who have beards on  
our chins may have passed through many a  
crisis, and all of us have occasion to be grateful  
to those who have helped us in days when help  
was badly needed; but of all those whom we re-  
member with gratitude, we give the first and  
warmest place to those who most wisely and kind-  
ly enabled us to put away childish things and en-  
abled us, as we became men, to think as men, to  
understand as men, and to act like men.

(C. C.)

## "CARMICHAEL" AND "THE FARMER'S AD- VOCATE."

"Our folks have become so interested in the  
new story of Canadian farm life, 'Carmichael,'  
that we can't wait till it is all published in the  
paper. Where can I get a copy of the book?"

This statement, from one of our readers, re-  
garding the serial running in the Home Magazine  
section of the paper, fairly well expresses the  
popular verdict. As a rule, the most good is de-  
rived from a book by reading it deliberately, but  
many will undoubtedly desire to possess the vol-  
ume itself, and it may be secured, postage paid,  
for \$1.25, through this office, if you cannot ob-  
tain it from your local bookseller. A still better  
way to secure a copy is to secure it as a premium  
for obtaining two new subscribers, at \$1.50 each,  
for "The Farmer's Advocate." By that plan  
you will be benefiting yourself and two other per-  
sons. There is going to be a great demand this  
season for "Carmichael," to be used as a Christ-  
mas present, for which it is peculiarly well suited,  
because of the excellence of the story itself and  
the handsome way in which it is printed and il-  
lustrated.

## A GOOD WAY TO RENEW.

It will very soon be time to send in your re-  
newal subscription for 1908. We make you this  
proposition, viz.: Send us TWO NEW subscrip-  
tions and \$3.25, and we advance your own sub-  
scription one year, as well as send "The Farm-  
er's Advocate" regularly to the new subscribers  
after December 1st, till the end of 1908. There  
is no better nor easier way of paying your own  
subscription than by this method. Never in our  
history was "The Farmer's Advocate" so wide-  
ly read nor so highly appreciated.

The help we afford our subscribers in the home  
and on the soil could not be purchased in any  
other way for hundreds of dollars. Our Annual  
Christmas Number will again be a delight to each  
one who receives it. Make an effort at once to  
secure the new subscribers and benefit yourself  
and them.

Start out after them TO-DAY.

Though the best agricultural paper published,  
and constantly improving in the quality of its  
contents and illustrations, the price per annum  
remains only \$1.50.

Many a foolish quarrel—for all quarrels are  
foolish—starts from a so-called insult. We say  
"so-called," because there is no such thing as one  
person insulting another. It is utterly beyond  
the power of any person to insult anyone but him-  
self. The insult is always to the insulted. It  
will prevent many unpleasantnesses to reflect fre-  
quently upon this fact.

## HORSES.

### THE HORSE'S FEET.

It is as true to-day as when the saying first  
gained currency, "No foot, no horse," writes Har-  
old Leeney, M. R. C. V. S., in the English Live-  
stock Journal. If we go back to the days of  
Alexander the Great, and to the earliest accounts  
of horses used for war, we find whole divisions  
placed hors de combat by wear of the feet, broken  
hoofs, "rotted soles," and other troubles not  
clearly defined by ancient writers. In his marches  
through Asia, Alexander had to abandon vast  
numbers of footsore horses, and unintentionally  
left "plums" to be picked up behind him, al-  
though his hosts commonly cleared everything in  
a manner only to be excelled by locusts. Some  
of these derelicts were the means of improving  
the local breeds, as castration was not general,  
so far as we can gather, and the arched neck and  
impressive manner of the entire accorded with the  
views of military glory, until it was found neces-  
sary to pursue different tactics, and avoid the  
risk of discovery by the neighing of steeds.

The importance of good feet need hardly be in-  
sisted upon, did we not frequently meet with  
horse-owners who buy without giving due con-  
sideration to the subject. Only the most care-  
ful of breeders realize that the shape of the foot  
is largely determined during the first few days of  
a foal's life. At birth, the under surface is like  
yellow cheese, and as impressionable for the first  
few hours. Standing on a ledge of stone may  
give a direction to the whole limb and cause its  
continuance by the compression of one part of the  
foot—an excellent reason for care as to the sur-  
face of the ground or the box where mares are