

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely  
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many years to duplicate in a new country where the methods of farming are widely different from what he has been accustomed to, and much will have to be learned in a new school of experience. Our plea for stability in such instances as those last referred to is that it is well to ponder the proposition from many points before deciding to pull up stakes, and unless the chances are very largely in favor of such a course, don't do it.

There is at present a disposition on the part of a good many farmers, owing to the difficulty of securing satisfactory help, to change their methods of farming, so that they can do it with less help. This, to the man of independent means, who does not feel the need of adding to his income, may be a wise move, but the farmer who needs to make further provision for his family, or for old age, and is doing well in the line of farming he is following, had better think at least twice about it before changing. The change will almost inevitably involve a considerable sacrifice in the sale of his working-plant, and he may not find himself adapted to the untried branch of farming he undertakes, or it may not pan out in practice as favorable as he has figured on paper. We suggest that, instead of changing over to a new line that he considers the practicability of a division of the labor of such help as he has, of adopting more labor-saving appliances, of making things more convenient for the prosecution of work, thereby effecting a saving of time as well as of labor, and by reducing the cost of production aim to secure more profitable returns. The disposition to sell out, to quit farming and try something else for an easier living is another of the dangers that too many farmers are coquetting with in these times. This is, in most cases, a decidedly risky undertaking, and, as a rule, the thought of adopting it should be banished at an early stage. The desire to get into town, under the impression that they can live there nearly as cheaply as on the farm, we believe, when acted upon, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred

proves a delusion and a snare, and many a man making this move has lost, by unwise investment or speculation his entire capital, which would have been safe if represented by his farm, which is always a permanent asset. There is, of course, a possibility of farmers being too conservative in their methods, and many are falling far short of the best returns for their work by being too slow to make changes in accordance with the trend of the times and of the markets, but this is not a necessary condition, and is one that is capable of improvement, but the tendency to change for an uncertainty may be quite as great a mistake. We, therefore, counsel the observance of an intelligent liberal conservatism as the safest course for farmers to adopt in their calling.

## House-building.

Farmers nowadays are devoting more attention to the improvement of their dwelling places, as well as the housing of their live stock. In part, this has been stimulated by the general progress of the past few years, and which bids fair to continue in Canada, unless all signs fail, for a lengthy period to come. House planning and building is at best a serious and vexatious operation, and when completed most people come to the conclusion that they could do better if they had it to do over. Hence the advantage of taking ample time to obtain full information in advance, so that when the house is completed it will give satisfaction, not only as a place to live and work in, but to look at. To help in that direction the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" recently offered prizes for plans and descriptions of farmhouses, one set of which appear in this issue, as well as an engraving from the first-prize winner in the house photo contest. Photogravures of other exteriors are yet to appear. The other prizewinning and highly commended plans will appear from time to time. In last issue we also began a series of articles from the pen of Prof. J. B. Reynolds, a specialist on these subjects, dealing with heating and ventilation, which he follows up with an article on an equally important theme, the water supply and sanitary arrangements of the farmhouse. We also devote an article to the question of laying out the grounds and lawn of the homestead, all of which we trust will be helpful to our readers.

## A New Departure.

We take pleasure in announcing the commencement in this issue of a new department, "Best Things," in our "Home Magazine," relating to "Life, Literature and Education," which we believe will appeal to a large and influential class of readers specially interested in these themes. We shall from time to time publish therein contributions from the foremost authorities on educational, literary and kindred subjects. We should be glad to hear from our readers as to their appreciation of this new departure, with any suggestions they may be disposed to offer.

## Premiums Up to the Mark.

Dear Sirs,—Your premium (knife) received on November 12th. It is evident that you do not send out cheap, trashy articles. Thanking you very much,  
R. E. FORDHAM.

Gentlemen,—The premiums received all right. They are like the "Farmer's Advocate," all that you claim them to be.  
C. R. TERRY,  
Wellington Co., Ont.

Dear Sirs,—Many thanks for the premium knife, which I received safely, and consider in thorough keeping with your admirable journal.  
York Co., Ont. A. BROOKSBANK.

## From Far-off Australia.

Dear Sirs,—Enclosed please find \$1.50 for one year's subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate." I would like to state that the sample copies I got from you I liked very much. The reading is good, and also the advertisements, which help me to procure the best agricultural machinery made. Wishing your paper further success.  
Tannymorel, Australia. W. H. MAGRIE.

## HORSES.

### Wintering Idle Horses.

The season is close at hand when, on many farms, there will be little work for horses until next spring, and, as a consequence, just a sufficient number will be kept in condition for work to do the required work, and the remainder will be allowed to run idle. In such cases, the object to be considered is how to winter these horses as cheaply as possible, and at the same time not allow them to become too much reduced in condition. One point that should be carefully observed is to not make a too violent change in food. This is a point that is too often not thought of or neglected, and the veterinarian reaps a harvest in consequence. Especially is this the case in season when hay is scarce or a high price. Horses accustomed to regular work, and fed highly on hay and oats, are, when the work is all done, or the severity of the weather prevents its continuance, suddenly changed to a ration of straw and a little grain. The sudden change from hay to straw will, in many cases, in a few days be followed by cases of constipation. The digestive system has for months been accustomed to digest and assimilate hay or grass as a bulky food, and it requires some time to safely make a change. In cases of this kind, or in any case where a radical change in the nature of the diet is contemplated, it should be done gradually—a little straw and considerable hay fed at first, and the quantity of straw increased and that of hay correspondingly decreased daily, until, in a few days, a full ration of straw may be given. In this way, the digestive organs become gradually accustomed to the change, and illness and discomfort is generally avoided. The same precautions should again be observed in the spring, when the change will be from straw to hay. While idle horses can be wintered on little food that is valuable on the market, it is wise to not endeavor to feed them too cheaply, as there is a danger of the animals becoming so reduced in flesh and constitution that it will be difficult and expensive to fit them for work in the spring. The object in wintering them should be to keep them in fair condition, and not allow the muscular system to lose tone to too great an extent. It is wise to give them a regular but not necessarily a large grain ration. Oats certainly is the best. The bulky food may be such as is not of high marketable value, but it should be of good quality. It is very dangerous to feed horses on food of poor quality, such as poorly saved or overripe hay, or dusty or musty food of any kind. Such food is very liable, on account of its indigestibility, to cause disease of the digestive organs, and where this is avoided it is very productive of leaves. Clean wheat or oat straw, the former preferred, makes a cheap and safe ration. Where machinery for the purpose is kept, it is well to cut the straw; if a little hay can be spared to cut with it, all the better. Then, if a little chopped oats and bran, with a few pulped turnips, or a small percentage of silage, be mixed with it, it makes it more palatable. Wheat chaff is certainly better than cut straw, but cannot always be obtained. Clean straw of any kind, except barley straw, makes good food. The latter, on account of the beards, is very unsatisfactory. It goes without saying that the horses should have plenty of good water. The horses should also have plenty of exercise, by being turned out into the yard or paddock for at least a few hours every day, but unless very comfortable quarters are provided, into which they can go at will, they should be stabled at night, as if exposed in severe weather they will certainly become depleted. The feet also require attention. Unless in a case where the feet are very brittle, the shoes should be removed in the fall, and the animal allowed to go barefooted until the following spring. In the meantime, the feet should be cleaned out occasionally, and carefully watched, and if they are breaking up too much light shoes should be put on; while if they are growing too large and of an abnormal shape, they should be trimmed with rasp and file to the proper form and size. If any of the horses are tender or sore-footed, their coronets should be blistered repeatedly, say, once monthly. This encourages the growth of horn, enlarges the foot in all directions, and thereby relieves pressure on the internal structures, and lessens or sometimes cures the lameness.

"WHIP."

Mr. Hord's recent sale of Thoroughbreds was doubtless a profitable one for a breeder's standpoint, but it afforded a splendid opportunity for young breeders to obtain foundation stock, if there were any looking for it. Fourteen head averaged \$95. Several horses of good racing breeding sold away down: Ayrshire Lad, at \$117; Artie Cook, at \$17.50; and Plum Tart, at \$200. A speedily-bred two-year-old filly, Kelvin Water, by Lord Berwentwater, was bought by a Vancouver breeder for \$97.50.