

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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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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returns from his work and from his money invested in any undertaking. The farmer is not excepted from this rule.

The boy just budding into manhood paints rosy pictures of his future. All ambitious boys have a desire to "make good" in the world. For such, is the farm at the present day a good choice of occupation? The average lad brought up to know farming is offered no better opportunity than to improve his knowledge of advanced agriculture and plan to make it his life work. The eyes of the world are now directed toward agriculture. The city business man now realizes as never before the bearing the broad acres adjacent to his city have upon his business. The banks and big urban industries get estimates on farm crops and many of them have good years or poor according as crops are good or bad. Even governments are commencing to arouse and stretch a helping hand to agriculture and in many instances they are sufficiently awakened to be really taking the needs of agriculture seriously. Farming is coming into its own. It has not reached the fulness of its possibilities yet; but prospects are brighter than ever before. Labor is scarce and the drawback cannot be met in a year. Economic conditions, the laws of supply and demand make it impossible to delay fairer conditions for the farmer. He will not in the future be discriminated against to such an extent as in the past. The importance of his position in the nation is asserting itself. He must be given due recognition.

With all this has come a rise in prices. Better returns are possible from the old farm. Millionaires are not made at farming, but the advance of science in agriculture, the changing conditions in favor of the farmer, the possibility of increased returns and the general conditions surrounding life on the farm make agriculture the best choice for the average farm boy. The boy who is willing to work, has the ability to plan and manage farm operations and grows up with his business will find that it is really an attractive calling, for it can be made to yield fair finan-

cial returns, the real yard stick by which all occupations are measured. And right here it might be said that parents could do more toward turning the attention of the boys and girls farmward if they looked a little more optimistically upon farm life themselves. Very often they are continually pointing to some young friend who has made a success in the city, forgetting the scores which have only been able to make both ends meet. Multitudes are not doing that—and for every millionaire there are more than a thousand financial wrecks. So often the farmer is heard crying down the old farm as the cause of much hard work with small returns, and frequently the same farmer has made a good success farming and is now considered "well off." Let the passing generation say a good word for the old farm. If the young man is afraid of work, the farm or any other occupation does not need him. For the energetic boy about to choose an occupation we would say, think twice before leaving the farm, as the farmer's day is dawning.

Ditching Machine Repairs Should Be Duty Free.

At the last session of the Dominion Parliament, the Hon. W. T. White put through a piece of good legislation when he removed the duty from ditching machines. Previous to that time the duty on these machines was 27½ per cent., which raised the price some seven or eight hundred dollars, according to the size of the machine purchased. Since its removal, machines to do farm under-drainage and other kinds of ditching have been permitted to enter Canada duty free, but still the cost to the buyer is fairly high. To get a real up-to-date machine it now costs in the neighborhood of \$2,200, which is to the average man a considerable sum and which will give some idea of what it costs to purchase repairs for said machine when any breakages occur. At the time the tariff was removed from the machines themselves the Government did not see fit to allow repair parts to enter this country free of duty. With the machine operating steadily day after day, and especially in somewhat rough or stony ground, there are several breakages and many of the castings come high in price. With the duty remaining on them it means extra expense for the machine owner, who in turn looks to the farmer who is having his acres drained to reimburse him for all outlay. The point is that the man who finally pays the shot is the man who is putting in tile drains, and in his interest and in the interests of the country it would be advisable to remove the duty from the repair parts as well as from the machines.

It is a well-known fact that ditching machines are not manufactured in Canada and are not likely to be. This being true, it becomes necessary for the ditching-machine owner, who may happen with bad breaks in his operations, to send to the United States, where these machines are manufactured, for his repairs. It was a great help to remove the duty from the machines themselves, and it would aid very materially if the Government at the coming session would pass like legislation to apply to repairs.

Under-drainage is one of the most important considerations in the operation of many farms and anything which tends to lessen the cost of putting in tile should be encouraged. The first thing a man contemplating tile drainage asks is the cost. While benefits may far out-weigh the original outlay, the man on the land always considers the latter first. At present the ditching-machine owner figures on a certain amount of breakages and the cost of his repairs and charges for his operations enough to pay him for these and in many cases, even though he estimates as best he can, he does not make very large profits. However, it is not the ditching-machine owner who is in the greatest need of free machines, but the farmers, who depend upon him to do their under-draining. The Government would do well to look at this from the viewpoint of the man on the land when it comes up for consideration at the forthcoming session.

What Wheat and Oats Cost.

According to figures from different competent men in Alberta it costs the prairie farmer 26 cents per bushel to produce oats, and 61 cents per bushel for wheat. In arriving at these figures interest on investment and a living wage for the farmer, his wife and family were considered as they should be, and keeping in mind the fact that some years a large quantity of the wheat is damaged by frost or snow, when the grain grower actually receives less for his crop than these prices, it would not seem that he was too well paid. It costs more than most people believe to produce farm crops, and the man with all his eggs in the grain basket can well afford to consider mixed farming where more chances are open to him.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M.A.

During the winter much popular interest is taken in the lowest temperature recorded, and in the summer in seeing how high the mercury will rise. In many parts of Canada we have a wide difference between summer and winter temperatures, but Dawson holds the record with 95 degrees in July, 1899, and -68 in January, 1901. The lowest temperature ever recorded anywhere in the world is -90.4 at Varkhoyansk, Siberia, and the highest temperature is 128 degrees at Mammoth Tank, California in June, 1887.

There are two widespread popular fallacies in connection with the weather. One is that rain may be caused by concussion. This idea, that any loud noise, such as cannonading, or even the ringing of bells, would bring rain, was suggested centuries ago. It was fully disproved in 1892 by experiments made by the United States Government. In these tests heavy charges of dynamite were carried aloft, even into the interior of clouds, by kites and balloons and exploded there but no rain resulted.

The other fallacy is that the moon has an influence on the weather. This notion has been proved, by years of careful meteorological observations to be entirely without foundation. The old belief that certain crops should be planted at a certain stage of the moon is so absurd that it is no longer held by any intelligent people.

There are many popular sayings concerning the weather. Some of these are quite unreliable, and only persist because of the popular tendency to count the hits and forget the misses. No credence should be attached to the innumerable sayings regarding the character of certain seasons as determined by the weather on certain dates of the calendar. The same is true of the saying that the early appearance of winter birds denotes a severe winter. On the other hand there are many weather signs which can usually be relied upon. An observant person whose occupation takes him outdoors can very often predict the weather from one day to the next with a good degree of accuracy. Much appears to depend upon knowing one's locality, as a person who is "weather wise" at home is often decidedly off in new regions.

Smoke falls before a storm, because the condensation of vapor on the smoke particles weighs them down. This increase in humidity before a storm also causes an increase in rheumatic pains, and makes the walls of stone houses damp. Dew formed plentifully after a fair day and soon dissolved the next morning indicates a strong range of temperature under the clear sky of an anticyclone, and hence may foretell a day or two of fair weather. It is said that "the north-west wind is a gentleman, and goes to bed," meaning that the nights are usually calm after a north-west wind by day; this naturally follows from the diurnal variation of velocity in the clear weather of such a wind. When the wind shifts to the north with the sun (that is "veers") we usually get clear weather. This is so because it indicates that the cyclone which has brought us the bad weather has passed. If, on the other hand, the wind backs (that is goes in the opposite direction to the sun) another spell of bad weather is coming.

The formation of fog in valleys at night and its dissipation early next morning indicates fair weather for a time, for this implies clear anticyclone air. In the same way when cumulus clouds disappear about sunset it indicates a fine to-morrow. "Mackerel sky and mare's tails make lofty ships carry low sails" is a sailor's saying which is usually true, for these cloud forms are the elevated overflow of an approaching cyclone, and, therefore, mean wind. Halos around the sun or moon usually mean the approach of bad weather.

As storm clouds pass by a break in them showing enough blue sky "to make a Dutchman's breeches" shows the coming of fair weather, for while breaks may frequently occur in one cloud layer or another within the stormy area, it is very seldom that clear blue sky can be seen