

Farmer's Advocate

and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, May 12, 1909

No. 868

FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal
Published Every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance \$1.50
" " " " " (if in arrears) 2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance 2.50
Date on label shows time subscription expires.

In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrearages.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk St., London, W. C. England.
Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.

Address all communications to the firm, not to any individual.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED.

14-16 PRINCESS STREET

WINNIPEG, MAN.

EDITORIAL

If any of the stockmen contemplate seriously the possibility of war with Germany let them try to imagine John A. Turner and Paul M. Bredt engaged in a pitch fork duel.

Opportunity of Spring

When we think of it, it is surprising how much of the convenience and comfort, not to say profit in farming, depends upon what we get done during the six to eight weeks of spring. Most of all, we are concerned to get the field crops seeded, and in doing this often neglect many smaller jobs that if done would afford an incredible degree of satisfaction throughout the whole year.

Take some instances. The garden requires attention just as soon as the land is fit to work, but if men and teams are kept on the fields from Monday morning until Saturday night, the chances of having fresh vegetables, early new potatoes, and fruits throughout the rest of the year are about all gone. True a garden can be made after seeding but it is not the same good garden that one has by giving the soil early attention. Why is it not possible to give an afternoon to the garden with the plow and harrows? But merely putting a little time on the garden is not all that might be done with advantage. Nearly every house and barn in the West would be improved with the planting of more trees, and the setting out of bush and cane fruits. These are things that have to be planned for ahead. It is no use waiting until spring arrives and the ground is fit before anything is done. The start should be made in June by breaking up the sod and continued in the fall by backsetting, then followed up in the winter by ordering the stock to be planted and the fencing material to protect it. But if all

these preparations are neglected the opportunity of planting in the spring when nature is ready to lend her hand to start growth is of no value.

When a man sees the hot summer days drag by without fresh vegetables and fruits, he not only regrets the missing of the opportunity of having a garden to draw from, but generally resolves that he will be provided for next season. Alas for good resolutions! Farming is not all simply growing crops. There is a responsibility to oneself and family and each spring the opportunity to discharge it is offered and availed of or neglected as the case may be.

Side Line Crops

It is scarcely necessary to call attention to Professor Bedford's article on another page of this issue upon the growing of our less important field crops. But as there is always a large amount of land that lies idle during summer, on account of not being considered suitable for wheat, oats or barley, it is worth while to emphasize the advantages of growing such crops as peas, rye, emmer and flax. Each of these crops has some peculiar characteristic that makes it suitable under certain circumstances for particular conditions of soil. We are coming to a time now when we cannot so well afford to leave land idle as we could when \$25 an acre was considered a high valuation for our best soils. It is becoming more and more necessary to get the most out of land of which it is capable, and also to keep the most in our soil of which we are capable.

If we were asked to name some farm practise out of the common run that promised something a little better in return than the average crop gives we would say grow clean flax seed. During the past winter we heard more enquiries for clean flax seed than for any other class of grain unless it was wheat, and everyone wants wheat. Flax reaches a fairly good figure for commercial purposes, but for seed it is difficult to say how much might be got for a pure article.

A hint is dropped in Mr. Bedford's article about growing peas for seed. Has anyone ever attempted to work up a trade in growing peas for seed merchants and for the trade which supplies the restaurants with peas for soup? In this direction we believe there is a side line that can be followed with profit. There are exceptional advantages for growing peas in the West, and it should be worth while exploiting them.

In connection with what Mr. Bedford says about rye it might be remarked that harness makers pay from six to ten dollars a ton for clean rye straw, and this probably accounts for a large proportion of the acreage in Manitoba. With a revenue from both straw and grain even the poorest farmer on the poorest land can manage to get something for his work.

A Dollar a Steer and a Slow Train

While a good many suggestions relative to the improvement of conditions in the cattle trade have been made, and some of them are being pushed for adoption by different interests, it seems to us that enough is not being done to secure a faster service for trains of live-stock. The nature of our live-stock trade, the fact of our markets being so far from the points of production makes it all the more necessary that in the marketing of grass-fed cattle, particularly, a better service than is given ranchers in any other part of America be put on by the C. P. R. True, as compared with other roads the C. P. R. has nothing to be ashamed of, but in the matter of live-stock shipments the actions of other roads should not be the standards of service. Rather the fastest service of which the road is capable should be the aim of all concerned.

In matters of this kind the C. P. R. is notably ahead of practically all other systems, but we believe if stock shippers and ranchers would get together in conference with the railroad officials and the actual advantage of a faster service calmly considered, stock trains run on local passenger train time schedules would be the result.

In the past it has been claimed that stock trains cannot be run faster than the time they now run on, and that it would not be safe to run at express train rates with heavy trains of live-stock, but the unanimous opinion of shippers and attendants is that if stock trains were classed as passenger trains and were not held up so long at sidings waiting for other freight, the average rate of movement might easily be doubled. In other words, on a run from Alberta to Winnipeg, or Montreal, nearly half the time is taken up with stops.

A steer's time is not supposed to be worth anything, but when a steer is losing around twenty pounds a day of flesh that sells in the Old Country for from 10 cents to 14 cents a pound, it is not hard to calculate how much a day that steer's time is worth to the shipper, but the unfortunate feature of the case is that no one gains by what the steer loses. It is a complete waste. Estimate what it means to have a train load of 30 cars, 24 hours longer in transit than is absolutely necessary allowing only 10 pounds loss per steer per day with 16 to the car, and 6 cents per pound for the loss. On the train load the daily loss would be \$576, and this, as every one knows, is not a large shrink. For the 90,000 cattle exported last year the loss on the same basis amounted to \$108,000 per day. Putting the situation the other way around every day saved would be a gain of \$576 on each 30 cars or \$108,000 on all the export cattle. Money can be made easier in very few undertakings.

SMOKELESS
AMMUNITION
Field Shooters
R SOVEREIGN
THE BEST
d by the
tridge Co., Ltd.
l, Canada



LLHAM'S NURSERY FOR
TRADE.

Plants Wanted

ees, Forest Seedlings,
ng Shrubs. Good pay
Exclusive territory.
R CULTIVATION
for our Western trade
e hardy and recom-
d and Brandon experi-
I well developed trees
withstand severe cold.
ate whether you can
otion Dept.

IRSBURY CO.
TORONTO, ONT.



DIAN NORTHWEST COLONIZATIONS

sole head of a family
years old, may home-
of available Dominion
atchewan or Alberta.
ear in person at the
or Sub-Agency for the
may be made at any
ons, by father, mother,
r sister of intending
residence upon, and
each of three years,
within nine miles of
of at least 80 acres
d by him or by his
ter, brother or sister.
homesteader in good
quarter section along-
ice \$3.00 per acre.
months in each of six
stead entry (including
n homestead patent)
ra.
exhausted his home-
obtain a pre-emption
homestead in certain
acre. Duties—Must
f three years, cultivate
se worth \$300.00.

W. CORY,
inister of the Interior.
lication of this adver-

OATS

us, F. O. B. Birtle
iota or Uno.
d oats, true to name,
m backsetting, not on
nal black oat cleaned
ise a splendid seed
arge plump kernel,
a.
Beulah, Man.