

## 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.

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ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line,  
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consequences of which her short-sighted owner can-  
not escape. Meantime, be it understood and re-  
membered, that any woodland with fifty trees, or  
even fewer, to the acre, will quickly reseed and  
reinvigorate itself if fenced off and protected from  
grazing of stock. Save the remaining trees from  
the cow!

### Britain's Plan of Social Reorgan- ization.

Controversy over the Lloyd-George budget has  
rather obscured from the popular mind other fea-  
tures of a comprehensive and interrelated plan  
of social organization mapped out by the Asquith  
Ministry, designed to give a greater measure of  
security to all, but particularly to the labor class-  
es. In the center of this plan, as expounded re-  
cently by Winston Churchill, stands the policy of  
national insurance, by which it is proposed, next  
year, working through the great friendly societies,  
to make sure that by the aid of a substantial sub-  
vention from the State even the poorest member  
of the poorest family may be able to make pro-  
vision against sickness, invalidity, as well as des-  
titute widowhood and orphanhood. Side by side  
with this is Mr. Churchill's own scheme of insur-  
ance against unemployment, which will enable  
upwards of two and a quarter millions of workers  
in the most uncertain trades to enjoy benefits  
when unemployed. The scheme is to be compul-  
sory in such great trades as shipbuilding, engineer-  
ing and building, but will be open to other trades  
and trades unions, or even to individuals. A  
necessary adjunct of this scheme is a national  
system of labor exchange, which will serve the  
dual purpose of finding work and testing willing-  
ness to work. This, it is expected, will secure  
for labor that free and fair market open to other  
commodities, and replace the present wasteful,  
heart-breaking meanderings in search of work, with  
a scientific system. Lastly, in connection with un-  
employment, is the development bill, the object of

which is to provide a fund for the economic de-  
velopment of the country, for the encouragement  
of agriculture, the colonization of England, and  
for the making of roads, harbors and other works.  
A very important clause prescribes that the prose-  
cution of these works shall be regulated as far as  
possible by the condition of the labor market,  
the State thus providing employment when it is  
otherwise most scarce.

Another great group of questions are concerned  
with the prevention and relief of distress. The  
first, and most costly—and, we might add, the  
most debatable—measure has already been taken  
in the old-age pensions act. Provision for wid-  
ows and orphans, as above noted, is counted upon  
to at least ameliorate the sweating evil, which is  
again directly aimed at in the anti-sweating bill.

All these things are features of a large co-  
herent plan, for which the much-debated budget  
is to find the revenue. With reference to the in-  
cidence of the new taxation, Mr. Churchill pithily  
says: "Formerly, the only question of the tax-gath-  
erer was 'How much have you got?' We ask  
that question still. We also ask, 'How did you  
get it? Did you earn it by yourself, or has it  
been left you by others? Was it gained by pro-  
cesses which are beneficial to the community in  
general, or was it gained by processes which have  
done no good to anyone, only harm? Was it  
gained by the enterprise and capacity necessary to  
found a business, or merely by squeezing and  
bleeding the owner of the business? Was it de-  
rived from active reproductive purposes, or merely  
by squatting on some piece of necessary land until  
enterprise and labor and natural interests and  
municipal interests had to buy you out at fifty  
times the agricultural value?' . . . . . How did  
you get it?"

As to the attitude of the Lords, and the pos-  
sibility of their rejection of the budget, he defines  
the issue, concluding in these words: "And last-  
ly, the issue will be whether the British people, in  
the year of grace, 1909, are going to be ruled  
through a representative assembly elected by six  
or seven millions of voters, and about which  
everyone in the country has a chance of being con-  
sulted, or whether they are going to allow them-  
selves to be dictated to and domineered over by a  
miserable minority of titled persons who represent  
nobody, who are responsible to nobody, and who  
only scurry up to London to vote in their party  
interests, in their class interests, and in their own  
interests."

That question, or one like it, must be answered  
in Canada some day, where the irresponsible Sen-  
ate, like the British House of Lords, stands as  
the bulwark of privilege and a check upon the  
people's will—a travesty on our most cherished  
principle of democracy.

### Specialization May be Carried Too Far.

Specialization is all very well in its way, but  
can easily be carried too far on the farm. Each  
common class of stock should be kept in reason-  
able number on the majority of farms. No one  
but has its special advantages and adaptations.  
Horses, of course, are necessary to perform work,  
and one or two good colts may be reared with  
profit. Cattle convert roughage into milk, meat  
and manure. Sheep consume weeds and pea  
straw, in addition to pasture and clover hay.  
Hogs make fine use of whey or skim milk, dish-  
water, soft corn and windfall apples, while they  
also have a rare appetite for the white grains  
which worked such havoc in pastures this year,  
and the United States Department of Agriculture  
informs us that they are good to rid the land of  
wild morning-glory, being fond of the roots. Poul-  
try pick up many shelled kernels of grain that  
would otherwise waste, as well as weed seeds and  
insects. A farm where only one kind of live  
stock is kept sustains many leaks. Also, the  
keeping of one kind of stock, such as sheep or  
poultry, in large numbers on a limited acreage  
seems to introduce parasites, bacteria or some in-  
jurious condition into the land that renders it un-  
favorable for subsequent keeping of that particular  
kind of stock. A specialty is good to introduce  
order and system to the farm operations—to give  
it head and tail, as it were—but an exclusive  
specialty is seldom advisable.

### Fads in Judging.

The tendency, in judging live stock at the fairs,  
to attach undue importance to non-essential  
points, such as so-called milk mirrors or milk  
veins and wells in dairy cows, or to the length of  
the tail, the turn of the horns, the sharpness of  
the withers, or the size of the rudimentary dugs  
of a bull of the same class, is still noticeable to  
the ring-side observer in the work of some judges.  
Time was when these, together with fancy color  
markings, were generally considered as sine qua  
non, but up-to-date judges now regard these as  
non-essentials, and assign more importance to  
breed character, type, conformation and handling  
quality of hide, hair and flesh, the indications of  
constitutional vigor and maximum performance of  
the purpose for which the animals are designed.

## HORSES.

### Anti-gambling Laws.

"Race-track Gambling in the United States  
and Canada," is the title of a pungent article by  
W. B. Findlay, in the Presbyterian, of Toronto. A  
few years ago, New York State, by popular vote,  
amended the State constitution, the amendment  
prohibiting gambling on race-tracks anywhere in  
the State. The gambling interest being astute  
and influential, were not at all dismayed, but ac-  
tually succeeded in having the amendment so  
worded that, instead of prohibiting race-track  
gambling, it actually legalized it. Then ensued  
the fight in which Governor Hughes stumped and  
canvassed the State, and, in spite of powerful  
moneyed interests, succeeded in carrying the Hart-  
Agnew amendment to the criminal code, which  
simply carries out the wishes of the people as ex-  
pressed by vote. Pool-selling or bookmaking is  
now prohibited at any time or place in the State  
of New York.

Louisiana, for long the headquarters of a great  
lottery scheme, was a ground on which the race-  
track gambler flourished during the winter months.  
The situation became so scandalous that the Leg-  
islature was forced, in 1908, to pass an amend-  
ment so drastic that it wiped out the winter meets  
in New Orleans, and drove the race-track gamblers  
from the State.

The States of Missouri, Texas, California, New  
Jersey and Illinois have each passed stringent  
legislation, prohibiting gambling in connection  
with horse-races, in spite of the great pressure  
brought to bear against such action by rac-  
ing associations. The writer, in referring to the  
Chicago race-tracks, a paradise for gamblers, says  
that they "were cut up and sold for building  
lots, and the race-track gambler folded up his  
tents and started for Ontario."

Almost all the great States, with the exception  
of Maryland, Florida and Kentucky, have amended  
their codes in order to meet and successfully grap-  
ple with this great evil. In Canada racing is  
carried on on a large scale at Montreal, Toronto,  
Hamilton, Port Erie, and Windsor. "The good  
people of Ontario are provided with race-track  
gambling facilities from the 19th of May till the  
first of October of each year. Bookmakers can  
legally ply their trade, so long as they do not  
stand in a booth, or other fixed place, but keep  
moving about while taking bets. Canada, and  
especially Ontario, furnishes a refuge for the  
sharks and gamblers that have been driven out of  
so many of the great States across the border,  
and would rather hunt around for fresh pastures  
than quit their fendish business. Is it not time  
for Canada to have her laws so amended as to  
hinder this worst of all dumping?"

### Veterinary Examination at Shows.

Veterinary inspection at the Glasgow Stallion  
Show is anathema with some owners of entire  
horses. That, says the Scottish Farmer, is a  
very good reason for insisting on veterinary ex-  
amination. No doubt, vets. are fallible. No  
doubt they make mistakes. No doubt they can-  
not, no matter how keen their skill, detect the  
worst forms of nervous diseases in a show-yard  
vetting enclosure. But, allowing a wide margin  
for error, the fact remains that a bench of com-  
petent veterinarians will not be likely to pass a  
horse affected with the hereditary unsoundnesses  
catalogued by the Clydesdale Horse Society. It  
would be a great matter were immunity from  
these diseases among breeding horses insured by  
the examination of competent vets. It is idle to  
deny that the vetting examination at Islington,  
defective though it be in some particulars, has  
done wonders for the Shire, the Hackney, and the  
Thoroughbred sire. That the system of vetting  
may be capable of improvement, no one denies,  
but improvement of the method is a totally dif-  
ferent thing from discarding the examination it-  
self.