

## 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.

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.
  2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries, 12s. in advance.
  3. ADVERTISING RATES.—25 cents per line, agate, flat. Live-stock advertising rates given on application.
  4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payment of arrears must be made as required by law.
  5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
  6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order, Postal Note, Express Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
  7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
  8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post Office Address Must be Given."
  9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent, Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.
  10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
  11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
  12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known. Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
  13. ADDRESSES OF CORRESPONDENTS ARE CONSIDERED AS CONFIDENTIAL, and will not be forwarded.
  14. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.
- ADDRESS—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited),  
London, Canada.

### The Rate of Exchange.

We are told by bankers and financial experts that a discount on our currency in the United States money markets is a splendid thing for Canada. The argument is advanced that it will discourage purchasers in the neighboring Republic and conduce to a greater consumption of home manufactured commodities, which means greater industrial development and expansion. Furthermore, we shall be obliged to deal with Great Britain, where our currency is at a premium, and thus establish closer connections between ourselves and the Mother Country, with whom we should trade.

This is all very logical and, no doubt, the outcome will substantiate the arguments advanced. We hope it will. But is not the average citizen or consumer making a very considerable sacrifice for this industrial expansion which the currency problem may bring to pass? Willingly or unwillingly we have bonused and fostered our infant industries with a policy of protection which has made it possible for Canadian manufacturers to exact more for their wares than the same goods could otherwise be purchased for. Already paying from 25 to 40 per cent. as a so-called customs tax, consumers will look with alarm on this 8 or 10 per cent. discount on our money and implore the makers, wholesalers and retailers to be lenient with us and not take advantage of the situation created by an unfavorable balance of trade. An 8 per cent. discount on Canadian currency in United States markets means that a dollar's worth of goods across the line will cost us in the neighborhood of \$1.08 here, leaving customs out of consideration altogether. Will or will not the Canadian-made commodity worth \$1 sell for that amount or \$1.07½? If the latter price prevails the rank and file will be paying too much for the industrial expansion which has been presaged.

Practically everyone is willing to make some sacrifice for his country, but we have no sympathy with this doctrine which sets up a certain class as representing the country, when in numbers they are comparatively few. The present situation is unavoidable, no doubt, because we purchase so heavily in the United States and do not return goods enough to balance the national ledgers. However, we should look the matter squarely in the face and attempt by a smaller volume coming in and a larger volume going out, to balance our trade,

which as it now stands bears most heavily on the consumer or ultimate purchaser of goods.

### Building a Nation.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

We have heard a good deal lately about the Canada of the future, or at least, in the last number of years. As some nations build on their past and like to recount their glorious history, so we seem to be inclined to build on the future and to look forward to the great destiny that is in store for us. We have been told that it is better to look forward than back and if this is true we have the advantage of the greater part of the rest of the world. Our life is still to be lived, and lived in the light of the experience that the other nations of the earth have accumulated through the generations of men that have passed away. We can, if we will, build on the foundation laid by others, and begin, as it were, where they left off. In this way and by this process do we progress.

But it's not as easy as it looks. To a certain extent experience has to become a personal matter before we can profit by it, or so it would seem. Some of us even have to go through an experience the second time before we are able to get the meaning of the lesson that Nature, or some higher power, is trying to teach us.

But the point is, if Canada is to have the great future that we have been predicting for her, how is it to be brought about? What means can be used towards this end?

Evidently the question can be answered in two words. "Things" and "person". Through the coming in contact of these two, one with the other, all our material progress is made. Everything that we have been in the habit of calling our "resources" were lying idle and useless until man appeared on the scene and started in to make them serve their intended purpose in the universal scheme of things. And it is only as we continue to do this that we will live up to Nature's watchword, which is "Progress". Only as we do this will we fulfil our duty from the material point of view, which is of importance only secondary in nature, to the spiritual.

What are Canada's resources in this line? Simply her mines, her fisheries, her forests and her farms. These are what we draw on for every bodily need of the nation. Every man who works in this country is connected in some way with these four sources of production. The great majority of us are chiefly interested in the one last mentioned. Consequently our country's future is largely in the hands of the farmers. And anything that can be said, to impress them with the importance and responsibility of their calling, should be said and repeated until all have come to realize it. The future of Canada, from the worldly and material standpoint, depends on production. We produce that we may exchange our production for the other necessities and luxuries of life and the more we have of this means of exchange the more we get in return and the fuller and more progressive life we have the opportunity of living.

Money is not an evil thing, in itself, as some people seem to think. It's the love of it, to the exclusion of the other important things in life, that bring us harm. We must have things to use if we are to get anywhere or do anything in this world, and we cannot have them, as a rule, unless we have the money to buy them. The extremists are the ones that have given to money its bad name, as they have been responsible for most of our misconceptions. By abusing many useful things we have made of them an evil.

So the understanding farmer, who is the truest kind of a patriot, will continue to cultivate his land and develop his herds to the limit of his ability for the two reasons that, first, it provides him and also his family, with the means whereby they can attain a fuller physical, mental, and spiritual life than they otherwise could, and secondly, it increases, to a certain extent, the national prosperity and the standing of the country among the other nations of the world.

But in speaking of the mental and spiritual attainment that may come through the results of industry, we want to say now that these are the real, or ultimate, objects of labor, or increased production, which we have been emphasizing. The first and last purpose in putting man on this earth was that the spirit in him, which is the real man, might develop and grow into a maturity that will mean happiness and fulfilled endeavor, if not in this world, then in some future existence.

Tracing it backwards we make it plain that the growth of the spirit man depends on the mental progress of the individual, and the individual mind can be evolved only as it comes in contact with things of a material nature. And it can have these things only as it gets them through the results of industry. Which brings us back to our keynote, increased production. This is our task if we are to make the "Canada of tomorrow" an improvement on the Canada of to-day, and worthy of the opportunities she has been given.

We have every encouragement to go forward. The growth of our financial institutions and the general increase in prosperity is, we believe, being accompanied by better laws, more law-abiding citizens, a higher standard of living, less corruption in connection with political contests and better educational opportunities than there ever has been in the past. We do well to put emphasis on our commercial prosperity. But we will do better to remind ourselves continually of the connection between that and the higher and ultimate purpose of life on the earth.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

In some respects this time of year is a favorable one for beginning the study of birds. There are now comparatively few species to be met with in our fields and woods, so that the beginner is not confused by a multiplicity of species, and has a chance to learn to know the few species which are present really well. Moreover, several of the northern birds which descend to these latitudes in winter are very tame, and the student can approach them closely and study them at leisure.

One of the commonest of our avian winter visitors is the Snowflake. These hardy little birds are veritable spirits of the storm, swirling over the fields uttering their musical trilling notes, alighting to feed in a weedy field, running hither and thither among the weed-stems, then suddenly arising and sweeping away to new feeding grounds.

The Snowflakes frequently arrive in larger flocks than is the case with most of our winter visitors, the flocks often containing a thousand or more birds. When a large flock is feeding they appear to roll like a wave across the field, this appearance being due to the hindmost birds continually rising and flying over the rest to the front of the flock.

The winter food of the Snowflake consists almost entirely of weed-seed, and chiefly of two species of weeds—pigweed and ragweed. The reason that these two species figure so largely in its winter menu is probably not due to any preference for these particular species, but to the fact that they are tall weeds which consequently protrude above the snow and also to the fact that the seeds remain on the stems over winter.

These birds breed in the far north, in Greenland, Labrador, around Hudson Bay and in Alaska. They build their nests out on the open arctic tundra, making them of grass and moss and lining them with feathers. In summer the plumage of this species is pure white with black wings and tail. In winter much of the white is clouded with chestnut brown.

Another winter visitor which is now with us is the Redpoll. This species is about five and a half inches in length. The upper parts are streaked with pale flaxen gray and dusky brown, the rump is either white, or white tinged with a rosy hue, and streaked with dusky brown. The under parts are white, streaked on the sides and flanks, and in the adult male the breast is tinged with rosy pink. The crown is crimson in both sexes, and it is from this characteristic that the species derives its name. Like all our winter visitors the Redpolls are irregular in their visits to any given locality, being abundant in some winters and rare or absent in others.

The Redpoll breeds in Labrador, Newfoundland, Greenland, the Mackenzie River region and Alaska. In the winter it goes as far south as Kansas and Oregon. In its northern home the Redpoll builds a nest of grass and moss in a low tree or bush, and deposits four or five bluish-white eggs speckled with reddish-brown.

The Redpoll, like the snowflake, feeds out in the open fields on the seeds of pigweed, ragweed and lamb's-quarters.

The Tree Sparrow is another common winter visitor. This species is six inches in length, and may be recognized by the chestnut crown and the dusky blotch in the middle of the plain gray breast. It breeds in Labrador, northern Quebec and about Hudson Bay, and in winter descends as far south as Kentucky and Kansas.

The Tree Sparrow is not as partial to open fields as the Snowflake and the Redpoll, but usually remains in the vicinity of shrubbery, and feeds on the seeds of the weeds about the margins of fields.

The song of this species, which is heard just before it leaves for the North in March or early April, is a bright tinkling ditty.

The Pine Siskin is an irregular winter visitor. In some seasons they arrive from the North very early, and are present in large flocks throughout the winter. This year, for instance, I saw this species in the Bruce Peninsula at the end of September. In other seasons they may be present only in small numbers in a given locality, or may be entirely absent.

This species is four and three-quarter inches in length, streaked above with olive-brown and dusky and streaked below with whitish and dusky. On a near view the bill is seen to be extremely acute, and the bases of the quills of wing and tail to be strongly tinged with sulphur yellow.

The Pine Siskin feeds very largely on the seeds of coniferous trees, often hanging upside down when picking them out of the cones. The notes of this species resemble those of the American Goldfinch very considerably, but are rather sharper, and one of the Siskin's characteristic call-notes "Sque-e-e-e" is not used at all by the Goldfinch. The song, which may be heard in the spring before the birds leave for the North, is also much like that of the Goldfinch, but is rather higher-pitched and is interspersed with the "Sque-e-e-e" notes.

This species breeds in the Maritime Provinces, in northern Quebec, northern Ontario, and in the Northwest and the Rockies. It sometimes nests south of its usual breeding-range, as was the case in central Ontario in 1905.

That the horse-breeding industry in the United States is not dead in spite of the great crop of tractors brought out during the last few years, is indicated by the sale of the Percheron filly Gloriana, Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Percheron at Chicago recently, for the handsome price of \$2,300. She moves from Minnesota to Pennsylvania.