

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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the industrial needs of the locality or Province? 2nd. What is being done in the direction of technical education? 3rd. What are other countries doing in furtherance of technical education? and 4th. What should Canada do, and to what extent should it be sustained by the Federal Government co-operating with the various Provincial Governments which, under the constitution, have charge of education? There has been some apprehension lest university influences and industrial claims might result in the needs of agriculture not receiving their full share of attention, but from its leadership and the high character of its members we have reason to believe that the enquiry and resulting report will be both thorough, independent and comprehensive.

Teachings of the Wind.

Plainly written in the track of wind storms of exceptional severity experienced by several localities last month are a couple of lessons at least that we do well to heed. One of these is tree planting and the preservation of wood lots. While the old inhabitant may say that, since no such "blow" had been witnessed for half a century it never could happen again, and therefore people need not worry over precautionary measures. But this is rather too easy going counsel. There is little doubt but what the destruction of our forest has a prejudicial climatic effect tending to increase the number and severity of atmospheric disturbances. It is no doubt true also that had some of these local storms occurred in treeless regions they would have gained a volume and velocity that would have absolutely levelled everything in the nature of farm structures, and strewn their pathway with death and destruction, of which those without actual realization can have no adequate conception. It is fortunate indeed, when these storms are generated that the country is still fairly well supplied with blocks of bush, and which, with the wind-brakes planted about fields and homes, break the force and gathering sweep of the wind. Apart from the value of growing forests for fuel and timber, con-

their beauty, the item of protection from either summer or winter storm is of tangible and almost inestimable value. Wood-lot preservation and tree planting should therefore be encouraged and prosecuted, both by public and private effort for personal and public good.

The permanence of farm structures is another consideration also to be kept in mind when the work of erection is being planned and executed. The collapse of so many roofless wooden silos before the untoward gusts of wind will have the effect of encouraging the erection of more substantial structures. The empty stave silo without a roof is too easy a mark for a gale, and many of them will soon be replaced by those of cement-concrete or other permanent material.

Need of Wool-grading Stations.

Mutton and wool production do not occupy a foremost place in the rank of Canadian agricultural products. Nevertheless, mutton, to an extent, and wool, to a large degree, is a commodity, required by all classes of our people; and the conditions are such that this will probably continue to be true. At the present time our population is not great, yet even now the woollen industry calls for the expenditure of much money. As the country's population doubles and trebles, this industry will be one of great importance. During 1909 Canada exported 1,979,261 pounds of wool, and imported 1,001,067 pounds, the total transaction representing around one million dollars, three-fourths of which was spent in purchasing wool from Britain and the United States. Evidently, then, there is a home market now for approximately one-third more wool than is produced in Canada. With the growth of the country, what proportions this will assume are readily seen.

A business of such magnitude, and with such possibilities, should be put upon systematic footing. At present there is no established market for Canadian wool, growers are left largely to the mercy of the buyer, and must accept his dictum regarding per cent. of dirt, length, strength and fineness of fibre, and be glad to sell at all. Canadian wool cannot compete with the surplus of other countries under such conditions. It would seem that the establishment of a plant for the cleaning, grading and classifying of the wool by disinterested experts might be one step in the right direction, as far as the Canadian wool trade is concerned.

"In Danger of Silence."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Canadian farmer has to endure much adverse criticism. His every action seems to be taken note of on all sides and commented upon. Some of this criticism is right and proper, and much of it is not so, but we feel certain that what we are about to say regarding a certain class of present-day farmers is not without truth, and we trust that there may be some outcome from it.

Many will perhaps question the truth of the statement that "Many of our farmers are in danger of silence." There will be a loud chorus of protests. Still, we believe that we will have the sympathy of many others in what we have to say, and since we have made the charge, the next thing is to prove it.

It goes without saying that the average farmer in Ontario is a hard, constant worker, and it is likewise true that in many cases he is descended from ancestors who were even harder workers. In this, perhaps, the strange law of heredity holds good. In too many cases the iron has entered into the soul, and work has become a fetish. The sole aim is to achieve something more, to make one more dollar, body and soul become mere machines.

Under such influences, the outcrop is hatred, and we have a mindless which is inclined to be developed only in one direction. What can then be but silence? In some cases there is even a developed a love of silence, and a stereotyped type in speaking out as little as possible.

This silence affects all departments of life. During the day, work is done, and there is little or no conversation. At night, when the monotony of the day has been broken, the main topic is "What's the news?" Another drink of the evening, and the mind of the farm worker is largely occupied with the possibility of receiving a letter from the

work, and an interchange of opinion to take place, the work going on all the better for it.

In the farm home this silence and its effects are again noticeable. At the table, where the family are together for a short time, the main object seems to be to eat large quantities of food in the shortest possible space of time, and all efforts are in that direction. The home life, as a whole, is not so pleasant as it ought to be, for this reason, that there is no interchange of opinions, and the wits become dull.

We have stated that herein lies a danger, and the word is not at all improper. There is a danger—danger that the head of the house becomes too silent and insensitive. He manages his own affairs, and that spirit of co-operation which is the strength of a home is lacking. Constant silence of this kind produces stagnation. The mind becomes too much like a deep pool from which there is no outlet. Soon the individual is afraid of his own ideas, and hesitates to voice them. The result is a mind not fully developed, and a citizen who cannot serve his fellows as he might do.

There is also grave danger from the younger members of the family. In such a home the children will not develop naturally. They may even grow to mature years, and yet be without dependent action. In many cases they will leave the home as soon as possible for a brighter and more attractive sphere.

These reasons should be sufficient to prove the statement previously made. Homes such as we have tried to describe are not uncommon. The spirit is a relic of the past, and cannot long remain, yet we think that it does not disappear as quickly as it might. We are in the twentieth century. "Settlement" days are a thing of the past in Ontario, and the spirit of past times is not suitable to present-day conditions.

We note with satisfaction the efforts which are being made in our schools and colleges to deal with this problem, and develop in the coming generation the power of expression. We cannot expect the people of Canada to be all orators, but if they will, they can all be masters of good English, and such mastery can only come through willingness and constant practice. We must lay aside our conservative spirit, and also many of our old backwoods expressions, and modern slang. They are both alike objectionable. But beyond all else, we would plead for a little more, aye, a great deal more, of interesting, intelligent, profitable conversation in the home.

ROBERT HALTON.

HORSES.

Frequently, a thorough washing with soft water and a good quality of soap, thoroughly cleaning the mane and tail, will put a stop to the scratching and rubbing that is spoiling the looks of a horse.

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Three-year-old and four-year-old horses respond to extra care in the selection of tender hays and chopped grains more than one might expect. Their permanent teeth coming in, tender the mouth sore, and the power of mastication is imperfect for a season.

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The whip is frequently a useful and necessary instrument called into play in the management of horses. It should never be used except to accomplish a definite purpose, and when that purpose is attained it should be placed at rest again. That it may be so used, the horse must be trained to know it, never to be in terror of it. To educate the horse rightly to the whip, accustom him to it as a colt, let him smell it, see it, pass it over his body and get him accustomed to it, as to the man in charge, so that he may come to regard the whip simply as part of the man. A few minutes spent every day in training a colt to his return in satisfaction through all the years of his working life.

Horse-feeding Experiments.

In connection with the feeding of working horses some interesting experiments have been in progress in large farms the past couple of seasons. These experiments were based on a belief that a ration could be so made in which maize, oil, meal, cottonseed meal and gluten meal might take the place of oats, and could be fed with a view to determining the effects on the health, spirit and condition of the horses, and also to test the economy of the ration. In all five farm trials, the results were interpreted, while doing the experiments, and the effect of two different rations was compared. One horse of each trial was fed the oats ration, and his mate received the experimental ration in place of maize meal, cottonseed meal, oil, that gave excellent results. The weight of the oats and oil meal in the ration was 42.44 lb. by weight. It was found that the experimental ration of oil meal than the oats ration had an effect. Cottonseed meal was found to be a good substitute for oats in the ration, and gave similar results. Gluten