

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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start out with the idea of securing "pap" and "patronage" and condone the "higher ups" for dipping into the public chest, counting on all hands to fall in line and run amuck with the other party every four or five years, just so surely may we expect the country's affairs to go to the dogs. There has been a disposition to look askance at men who were not "dependable" politically, or who, in other words, were liable to "kick over the traces" if things were not going straight. Being just too independent for the "Boss" such men have again and again been the saving remnant of a political party or of the best interests of their country. Instead of being frowned upon they are rather to be honored.

Do Your Bit for the Fall Fair.

There is one line of work where many farmers are called upon to assist agriculture and where too often they neglect to exert themselves, and that is with the fall fair. When this is read the fair dates for Ontario will have been, or will soon be, announced, and they should act as a signal for all directors and committee men to get busy. Some directors are energetic in assisting the secretary before the event, on fair day, and after it is over. Others appear only for their badge and dinner ticket. Fortunately the majority of the officers are big enough men to see the importance of fostering the local fair, and making it a success, but we are appealing to the indifferent directors who had not the manliness to decline the honors when appointed, or the spirit to help when needed. A fall fair is a local event, and every farmer, whether an officer or not, should have pride enough in it to boost it in every way. A greater effort should be made to get the good stock out this season, but perhaps this cannot be done without sheds or some better accommodation. Few breeders will risk tying valuable horses or cattle to a fence post. There is also, generally speaking, room for considerable improvement in the display of agricultural products. Pianos and sewing machines are useful all the time, and are all right at the fair, but the farmers might adopt some of the merchants' enthusiasm regarding the display of goods, and make the products

of the old farm eclipse anything the town can bring forth. Endeavor to make a strong feature out of some class of live stock or farm products; it will draw the crowd and help the fair for the succeeding years. Some fall fairs are noted for their show of heavy and light horses, others for their display of fruit, some again for poultry and vegetables, while still others make cattle a drawing card. The directors should work up these lines and advertise them. Go to the men who have these things to show and get them to come out. Work for and boost the fall fair so that the people who are now beginning to see something in agriculture will be obliged to admit that after all there is nothing that can surpass the old farm and what it can produce.

Care Needed in Handling Milk.

There is a trite saying that we have never seen contradicted, and it is to the effect that "we are only going through this old World once." While this is generally accepted as a fact, we should not take it to heart to such an extent that we become careless and indifferent and go through this old World too quickly. Some, who disregard the laws of nature, make a very hurried trip across this planet, and pass off without leaving footprints on the sands of time. The fate of a child depends not only upon a mother's love and tender care, but to a very considerable extent upon the intelligence and practical wisdom with which the parent is endowed, and which is put into practice. Infant mortality increases as peoples adopt the so-called ideas of civilization, without applying the latest and correspondingly important rules for the maintenance of health. The Indians got along very nicely so long as they lived in tents, pitched from time to time on fresh fields or built in different parts of the forests, but as soon as they adopted the white man's way of living permanently in houses disease became more persistent, because they did not,



Showy Lady's Slipper.

at the same time, observe the white man's rules of sanitation. While the country folk have steadily improved with the years in the care of food consumed at home or sold to the public, there is an increasing demand for even greater vigilance on the part of the producers, particularly relating to milk and other dairy products. To the agriculturist, who with his family has enjoyed good health on the same fare that he has sold to others, the pasteurization and clarifying of milk may appear unnecessary and ridiculous. However, by the time milk reaches the urban dweller's cupboard or cellar it has usually had time to increase its bacteria content by millions and become a medium teeming with germ life. Without pasteurization this product is more than milk, and some unsuspecting consumer in the general routine of eating and drinking takes a glassful, as he thinks, to prolong life, but often the result is quite the reverse. It has not been very long since we began to hear so much about tuberculosis in cattle, and perhaps if we had lived one hundred years ago we should not have had all this worry. However, the disease has crept into so many herds and has become so prevalent that a careful farmer will not take whey from a cheese factory for his pigs unless it is pasteurized. This precaution has become so general that someone wittingly remarked, "To enjoy any degree of protection one must be a hog."

An article in the Dairy Department of this issue discusses the possible germ content of milk, and explains the necessity of greater care in the handling

of this product. While it may appear that too much stress is laid on this phase of the matter, evidence is piling up to such an extent that we can no longer doubt the scientists' declarations about the disease-carrying properties of milk. Traditions and ways of our fathers and mothers are no guide to us when the things with which they worked have changed, and we are supplied with altogether different material. The new-fangled ideas and hobbies of the present, as some view them, may become the custom and practice of the next generation. Even on well-ordered farms and in the good housewife's kitchen there is need of care and sometimes extra precautions to insure the health of the family and particularly of the younger children. "There is nothing constant except change," and we must meet these exigencies as they arise. The urban consumer can regulate the quality of the stuff he buys largely by the price he pays, and until he is ready to defray the expense of producing the best his words and admonitions will count for naught. Salaried health officers are supposed to look after this matter and see to it that the urbanite is supplied with food fit for consumption, but the rural people are left largely to their own devices, and it is they who should exercise proper precautions that the inner man is catered to in full accordance with the laws of nature in their revised form and amended to suit the race and conditions as we find them.

Nature's Diary.

BY A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

A very bright little bird which is common as a summer resident in eastern Canada is the American Redstart. This species is about five and a quarter inches in length, the adult male is black above and white beneath, with the sides of the breast and large blotches on the wings and on the upper portion of the lateral tail-feathers, orange red; while the female is olive-brown above, white beneath, and marked with pale yellow in the same places as the male is marked with orange. Of all our Warblers, extremely active little birds though they are, not one displays so many different motions per minute as the Redstart. It dashes to and fro, up and down, in and out among the branches, with an infinite variety of movements. Seemingly an overflowing of superabundant energy, this activity is really an energetic insect hunt. All through the song-season of May and June the male Redstart makes his presence known, for he is an unusually constant singer and may be heard at almost any time of the day. The nest of the Redstart is made of leafstalks, thin strips of bark, plant down and similar soft vegetable materials. Usually it is lined with fine rootlets. It is placed in the crotch of a sapling at a height of from two to fifteen feet from the ground. The four or five eggs are white, variously blotched and spotted with brown and gray. The young males of this species do not attain full plumage until the second year, but breed the first year in a plumage similar to that of the female.

The insect food of the Redstart is perhaps more varied than that of any other common species of Warbler. Apparently there are few forest insects of small size which do not, in some of their forms, fall a prey to this bird. Caterpillars that escape some of the slower birds by spinning down from the branches and hanging from their silken threads are snapped up in mid-air by the Redstart. It takes its prey from trunk, limbs, twigs, leaves, and also from the air so that there is no escape for the tree insects which it pursues, unless they reach the upper air, where the Redstart seldom goes except in migration. While there are few small pests of the deciduous trees that it does not eat, it is not confined to these trees, but forages more or less among the coniferous trees as well. Also it is seen at times in orchards, and gleams among the shade trees in localities where the woods have been cut away. It is an efficient caterpillar hunter, and one of the most destructive enemies of the smaller hairy caterpillars. It catches bugs, moths, gnats, flies, small grasshoppers, and beetles. The summer home of the Redstart extends as far north as Labrador and southern Alaska, in fact it goes almost to the limit of tree-growth throughout Canada. The southern boundary of its breeding range may be roughly traced by a line extending from the mountains of North Carolina to Utah.

As this species is highly insectivorous in its food habits it migrates far south in winter. Many of the eastern Redstarts follow down the Florida peninsula, and then across to Cuba, Haiti, and others of the West Indies, where they pass the winter. The larger number, however, reach the sea at various points along the west coast of Florida, Louisiana and Texas, from which they strike out for Cuba or Yucatan, making the journey in a single night, though the distance is from five to seven hundred miles.

One of the most beautiful and certainly one of the most striking of our wild flowers—the Showy Lady's Slipper—is now in bloom in the peat-bogs. This species does not inhabit the open bog nor does it grow in dense shade, but along the partly shaded margin of the bog is its favorite haunt. It is fortunate that this lovely plant grows in the bogs and not in locations visited by a great number of people or it would long since be extinct in all well-settled localities. Even