

L  
RS  
ST

AVAIL

difficult  
y and  
butter  
good  
prices  
e.

of time  
summer  
alone  
e from

when  
most  
ming,  
easier

y save  
ht for  
op us

TD.  
G

a are

s

rs

oils

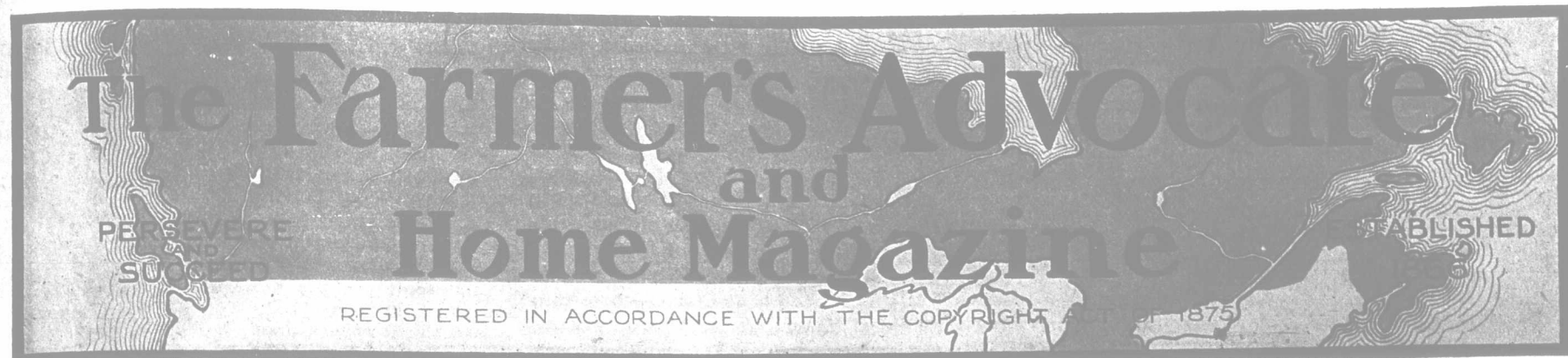
what

ED

tem

n and  
le to  
water  
ouse,  
or all  
s, and  
The  
at al-  
y re-  
to in-  
d by  
mot-  
ne or  
Write

RIO



Vol. XLVII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 18, 1912.

No. 1049

## EDITORIAL.

The capable and sensible hired man is on the highway of successful life.

A good many people say they are farming when they are only speculating in land.

Weed-killing is one of the surest ways of making more than two blades of grass grow where one grew before.

The increasing size of farms means, among other things, that the land is falling into the hands of the more capable persons.

The young man who thinks himself too clever to be a farmer either overestimates himself or underestimates farming and its possibilities.

One of these days an indignation meeting of cows will be held to protest against being compelled to produce milk on a diet of ox-eye daisy, Canada thistles and ragweed. Carried unanimously.

June pasture is excellent and economical feed. August pasture is, by comparison, both inefficient and dear. Supplement the pastures during dog days, thus making them go further, and obtaining more milk.

The American political situation is interesting. Mr. Taft wants to be elected President; Roosevelt and Wilson, ditto. And the Republican office-holders want to save the Grand Old Party from defeat, so as to hold their jobs.

The advantage of soiling is seldom fully appreciated. Too many look only at the milk pail. The stretching of pastures is perhaps not less important. It takes a lot of land to grow full rations for a cow in midsummer. The grazing areas should be eked out with silage, green crops or even hay.

The shrinkage in the quantity of marketable fruit in the United States each year, owing to attacks of the codling moth, is estimated by Messrs. Quintance and Scott, of the United States Department of Agriculture at twelve million dollars, while from three to four million dollars is spent for sprays and labor to control it.

Clean farming is a large part of good farming. For what doth it profit a man to enrich his soil bountifully and conserve copious quantities of moisture by cultivation, if from a quarter to a half the moisture and plant food are to be taken up by weeds?

The Toronto city council has decided to build a municipal abattoir on the site of the Western Cattle Market, which was otherwise likely to be practically forsaken, owing to the decision of two of the leading abattoir firms to buy no more there, but to confine their activities to the West Toronto Yards. The move is a good one, and Toronto's example should be followed by every city in Canada which has not already a public abattoir.

What is so rare as a day in June, or what so refreshing as a shower in July?

The demand for deep-milking Shorthorns will not receive the attention from breeders that it deserves until buyers get "shed" of the notion that beef, plus milk, should be cheaper than beef alone. This erroneous idea has been fostered by breeders who had scrubby individuals to dispose of cheaply, and sought to facilitate their sale by making claims for them on the score of dairy quality. A Shorthorn is not dual-purpose merely because it is a poor beef individual, and a genuine dual-purpose animal is intrinsically worth much more—not less—than one with beefing proclivities only.

How many of our readers have tried feeding sheaf oats extensively in winter, and with what results? We know some who practice it regularly, and claim to have the best of satisfaction. Might we not save considerable threshing expense, without any counterbalancing loss, especially where rats are not too troublesome? One of the best-relished and apparently most nutritious feeds we used last winter was a load of peas and oats cut green and cured as hay. It was not extra well cured, either, having received a good deal of rain. How about this threshing business, anyway? Has it not become too largely a habit? Of course, most of us would want to thresh some grain, but is it necessary or wise to thresh it all? The question may be worth considering.

One of the fundamental needs of farming in Canada is the general adoption of some system or systems of crop rotation. Some systems are better than others, but almost any one is better than none. To our mind, the simplest and best rotation where dairying is largely followed is one of three or four years, as clover, cultivated crops, and grain seeded to clover and timothy, to be left one or two years in sod, as the case may be. This permits the division of the farm into three or four fields, besides a permanent pasture field or two. When part of the rotated area is to be pastured it may be divided from the rest of its section by a temporary cross-fence.

Visitors to the sale-ring of an auction where Holstein-Friesian cattle pass under the hammer, are sure to be struck by the emphasis placed upon performance of the individual and her ancestors. Perhaps it is sometimes overdone, as when it leads to the bidding of stiff prices for weedy cows and heifers showing poor evidence of constitution and swinging ill-balanced or pendulous udders; but there is no doubt the system of public official testing, which has been pursued with such intelligence and persistence by Holstein breeders has done an immense amount to place this breed in its present enviable position. More recently, the breeders of Ayrshires and Jerseys have followed suit, with results already highly advantageous to breed and breeder. The value of a pedigree depends mainly upon the merit of the ancestors specified, and merit in a dairy cow hinges fundamentally upon capacity to produce large quantities of milk and butter-fat at a profit. Pedigree which does not promise this capacity is pretty largely useless from a utilitarian point of view. Breeders of dairy cattle are "keeping their eye on the ball."

## Educated to What?

An idea that "Farmer's Advocate" readers might do well on rainy days to turn over in their minds was contributed by a speaker at the last meeting of that very much alert body, the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Kansas farmers have been dismissing instantaneously the boy who failed to guide the plow or the cultivator in a manner that would benefit the corn, but have blindly furnished a purse of more than \$7,000,000 annually to promote and perpetuate a system of education that has largely crippled the boy as a producer and injured the interests of the farm. Another crop of corn might be grown, said the speaker, but the boy never. Great dissatisfaction exists with the rural schools of the State. The men who pay the bills are beginning to think they should have something more to say as to how the money is expended. The United States has been handling over \$315,000,000 per year for the support of the common schools and asking few questions, but now the people are confronted with the statement that they have been on the wrong track, and must begin over again. Referring to some of the so-called higher institutions of learning, Wm. Allen White says, "It takes our graduates too long to recover," and he might have gone further and said a very large per cent. of them never recover. Woodrow Wilson says: "A man who takes a course of four years of social life at some university has thrown away four years of that natural power to work which descended to him from his great progenitor, Adam." Dr. Chas. W. Elliott, ex-president of Harvard, says: "It is not necessary to attend a higher institution of learning to obtain a liberal education; it can be gained by devoting fifteen minutes every day to the reading of good books." Many statements of facts have emanated from the office of the secretary of the society (the State Board of Agriculture) that have become orthodox throughout these United States, but none were ever fraught with more truth than the statement that "by far too many of our graduates are a lot of swaggering, soft-palmed, lawn-tennis, basket-ball, pink-tea, bridge-whist, cigarette and pool-hall specialists; parasites instead of producers, of no earthly use to the world in which they exist, with a contempt for those who live by real work, absorbed with the idea that they are made of a clay vastly superior to that of those who paid their way, and who, by their lifetime of strenuous toil, pinching economies and many privations made their schooling possible."

## Starting to Think.

Whatever else may occur in the order of events, the world must be fed, and the farmer produces the bulk of the provisions. The food-consuming population of the towns and cities is increasing far more rapidly than the farming population; so that even with the improved farm methods and facilities, demand outruns supply. Thus it happens that, while other industries and occupations are highly organized, and efforts are concentrated to increase their "share of the proceeds," nature, in the interests of the lone farmer, proceeds to restore the balance of things by increasing the cost of living, which, if it does not drive people back to the land, at all events makes them think.