

# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Journal

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Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, April 14, 1909.

No. 864

### FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal  
Published Every Wednesday.

#### SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance	\$1.50
" " " " " (if in arrears)	2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance	2.50

Date on label shows time subscription expires.  
In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all arrears.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House, Norfolk St., London, W. C., England.

Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.  
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14-16 PRINCESS STREET WINNIPEG, MAN.

## EDITORIAL

### The American Invasion and Our Pure-Bred Stock Industry

American breeders are beginning to show a livelier interest than they formerly did in the possibilities of Western Canada, as a market for pure-bred live-stock. They have reason, too, for the interest they are showing. According to official estimates, some seventy thousand Americans will cross the international boundary this year, to start farming on the prairies of the last west. They belong to that class of men, who have built up the west and central west of the United States, the section of that country, which, for years has been the best selling ground for pure-bred stock of all classes. It should follow naturally that these same men, once they get their feet planted in the Canadian prairies will be ready buyers of those same classes of stock they were accustomed to handle in the South. The American invasion so-called, is merely the changing of residence of several hundred thousand successful farmers of the United States, from one section of the continent where land is high priced, and opportunities not so large as they formerly were, to another section where five or six times the acreage may be procured from the same investment of capital, and where all the opportunities incident to the opening of a new country exist. Their requirements in pure-bred stock will be worth having.

Breeders on the other side are making representations to the federal authorities for the establishment of additional inspection stations along the boundary to facilitate the export of stock. The intention at the present is to render less difficult the entry of pure-bred stock being brought in by settlers. The aim is to inaugurate such a system of inspection along the border, as will make it as easy to ship stock into the Northwest, as it is now to ship

from state to state. Canadian breeders have nothing, perhaps, to fear from American competition in the pure-bred stock business. Our pedigreed stock averages better than most of that we have seen coming out of the United States. The incident in question is taken merely to show that we may expect more competition than formerly from the south, and should be prepared in the best possible way to meet it. The stream of American farmers now crossing the forty-ninth means more than increasing population. It means a vast increase in the demand for pure-bred stock, a demand that Canadian breeders would be well advised not to be backward in preparing to supply. That is if we want to retain the business for ourselves.

### Fresh Air as Medicine

This is the season of the year when we get a lot of enquiries on the treatment of horses whose symptoms are simply "run down." Generally, these horses are aged, or they are mares in foal. Doubtless there are hundreds of others whose conditions are not made known to the veterinarians, and whose owners are simply waiting for the grass to cure the very apparent indisposition. In most of the cases that come to our notice the horses are well fed and "comfortably" housed so the mystery deepens when they fail to develop strength and spirit.

Very often there is some constitutional derangement that is responsible for a depressed state of vitality in any class of stock, and the effects of the cold weather simply bring out the weaknesses of the animal. But quite frequently horses have no other trouble than the unhealthful surroundings in which they are kept during winter. One of the surest indications of this lies in the fact that the idea is prevalent, based upon actual experiences, that horses do better on the prairie in winter than they do in stables. And so they do where the stable is at serious fault. In most of the cases of debility that come to our notice the whole trouble lies in the lack of FRESH AIR, and, in the fact that lice have been getting in their work. The loss in feed and vitality from these two causes, is enormous. In the one case it is slow poison and in the other it is a process of slow bleeding to death. Spring is a relief and an aid to recovery to most debilitated horses for the reason that it gives them fresh air and a chance to roll in the dust, and so rid themselves of lice.

In most stables it is not feasible to install a ventilating system, but a big improvement can be made by taking out a lot of the glass sashes and putting in cotton in their places. By this means the air can be kept fresh, and stock will keep in better health, and this applies with equal force to the human stock as well. The number of tuberculosis cases can be reduced by one-half by just such a simple method.

### Harrowing Grain

The practice is becoming more general of harrowing grain after it is up. The use of the harrow in this respect is two-fold: it aids in the conservation of soil moisture by loosening the surface, and breaking connection with the subsoil, thereby preventing the lifting up and evaporating of the moisture stored beneath; checks weed growth by cutting off freshly germinated weeds taking root near the surface. Experiment, on one's own farm, since opinion as to the value of harrowing grain after it is up is divided, is the best way of determining whether or not the harrow has use in this respect. As individuals we do not experiment anyway, as much as we should on our own farms. We either believe or disbelieve what somebody else says, and follow or do not follow any newly introduced practice, accordingly as it appeals to our ideas of what is proper, a plan that is all right if we can depend always on the soundness of our own ideas, but not as likely as the experimental one to lead most directly to the desired results. Several farmers in widely separated sections of the country, relating their experiences in the growing of grain, in this issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, strongly advise the use of the harrow for the two-fold purpose stated. This plan is worth trying.

### The Prime Essential

In the articles published in this issue on the growing of barley and oats, particularly in those emanating from Alberta and Saskatchewan, readers will note in almost every instance, that the point cited as of first consideration in the successful growing of these crops, is the conservation of soil moisture. It is to conserve all the moisture possible that the special methods of preparatory cultivation described, are carried on, also the cultivation at the time of seeding, after the seed is sown and after the crop is up. According to data compiled by the Dominion Meteorological Service, in Alberta, during the growing season from April to August, inclusive, the months during which these two crops take from the soil, all the moisture practically required, the rainfall averages one year with another, and one district with another 12.19 inches; in Saskatchewan during the same months, 13.5 inches of rainfall are received; in Manitoba, the total for the same period is 22.5 inches. Providing the whole of this could be stored up in the soil for the crop, these amounts of rainfall would be insufficient to supply all the moisture required by an average crop, say, of oats yielding up to seventy or eighty bushels to the acre, barley up to about fifty and wheat up to forty per acre. But it is impossible to retain anything like the total rainfall received. Evaporation from the surface is responsible for a large percentage of the

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