

## The Farmer's Advocate

### HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),  
LONDON, CANADA.

off, there seems to be no good reason why they  
should not draw from Canada to supply the cows  
to fill the places of those whose day is done as  
profitable producers. Some dairymen in Western  
Ontario believe that many of our good grade  
dairy cows will be picked up and taken into the  
United States. If the cows go milk must be  
produced in smaller quantity, for a time at least,  
until the new market exerts an impetus on the  
breeding business in Canada.

In the past, in sections of Canada bordering  
on, or not too far removed from, large United  
States cities, a cream trade was developed. If  
it was found profitable to ship cream into that  
country with a duty of five cents per gallon, we  
might reasonably expect an increase in the export  
of this product now that the duty is entirely re-  
moved. The same may be said of milk, which  
formerly had a duty of two cents per gallon and  
is now free. With these markets wide open,  
there cannot but be keener competition for the  
output in this country, especially in districts  
near the border.

The raw material goes in free, but butter and  
cheese still are dutiable but to a reduced extent,  
the tariff on each being reduced from six cents  
per pound to two and one-half cents per pound.  
We understand that Canadian cheese does not  
stand in high favor in the United States market  
where a more open, softer product meets with  
approval. Nevertheless, prices are higher over  
there than here, from two to four cents per  
pound in the country towns, and, in the city of  
New York, cheese was quoted last week as high  
as 17½ cents per pound for finest quality whole-  
milk goods. The difference in butter prices at  
present is not very great, but what there is  
favors the United States market, and our  
Montreal market correspondent informs us that a

difference of one cent per pound net will influence  
a shipment of butter across the border. It takes  
very little to turn the tide in some instances.

This is the state of affairs. The ultimate  
outcome may be, to some extent, a matter of  
conjecture, but the signs point to increased in-  
terest in dairying as well as in beef production.  
If the United States dairyman comes after our  
dairy cows, and the United States cities draw  
upon our supplies of milk and cream and other  
dairy products, it looks as though our dairymen  
had a busy time ahead of them breeding and  
raising cows for their brother dairymen to the  
south, and, at the same time, raising enough to  
keep up a growing supply of milk for our own  
and United States cities. Let us turn the light  
for a while upon the effect of the new tariff regu-  
lations upon Canadian dairying.

### Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

The season of the fall migration of ducks is  
now at hand. We have in Canada a great many  
species of ducks, which belong to three classes.  
The first class comprises the Fish-ducks, often  
called She'll-drakes and known to ornithologists  
under the name of Mergansers. They have nar-  
row bills with toothed edges, adapted to seizing  
and holding fish. We have three species belong-  
ing to this class, and the males of all three are  
handsome birds, but the male Hooded Merganser,  
with his large-crested head, is particularly strik-  
ing. The ducks of this group are not much es-  
teemed by sportsmen on account of the fishy flav-  
or of their flesh.

The next class consists of the river and pond  
ducks, such as the Mallards and Teal, and among  
them are found many species much sought after  
by the hunter.

One member of this group, the Wood Duck,  
was at one time a common breeder along the  
streams of the wooded portions of Canada. It  
has unfortunately been hunted with such persist-  
ence that it is now a very rare bird in the more  
settled parts of the country.

It is perhaps the most beautiful of all the  
ducks, the male having the upper part of the  
head and the crest glistening green and purple,  
the side and front of the lower neck and the  
breast a purplish-chestnut, prettily marked with  
several chains of angular white spots, the sides  
yellowish-gray, with black and white wavy bars,  
and the under parts a pure white. The female is  
a much more obscure bird, as is the case with  
all the ducks, gray and yellowish-brown, mottled  
with dark gray.

The Wood Duck makes its nest in hollow trees  
and the young are carried out in her bill by the  
mother.

Another of this group, the Black Duck, is now  
the commonest breeding duck in Eastern Canada,  
still breeding in large numbers in extensive  
marshes. The name Black Duck is a misnomer,  
as the bird is really a mottled dark brownish-  
gray.

The Mallard is a rather rare duck on migra-  
tions in the East and is rarer yet as a breeder.  
A few breed in the marshes of Southwestern On-  
tario, but the main breeding ground of the Mal-  
lard lies west of Manitoba. The moulting of the  
male Mallard is interesting. In August the Mal-  
lards seek out some secluded reed-margined pond,  
and both sexes lose their wing-quills, so that they  
are able only to swim and dive, not to fly. The  
drake is a very conspicuously colored bird in his  
usual dress, but while his wing-feathers are fall-  
ing out and being replaced by new ones he as-  
sumes the brownish, inconspicuous plumage of the  
female and in this way probably escapes many  
enemies. As soon as the flight-feathers have  
grown once again this temporary dress is dis-  
carded.

The Mallard is a fresh-water duck and winters  
as far north as open water is to be found.  
The greater number winter in the southern half  
of the Mississippi Valley, and for many years  
this was the source of a large part of the mar-  
ket supply. Almost incredible numbers were  
slaughtered. At Big Lake, in Arkansas, one pot-  
hunter in a single winter sold eight thousand  
Mallards, and from this one locality over a hun-  
dred and twenty thousand were sent to market  
during one winter. Fortunately, both Arkansas  
and Missouri now forbid market shooting.

The third group of ducks are known as the  
Sea Ducks from the fact that they spend the win-  
ter along the sea coast. They breed mostly in  
the sloughs of the West. In this group are found  
many ducks much sought after for the table.  
Chief among these is the Canvas-back. This  
species is among epicures supposed to have the  
finest flavor of any wild-fowl. It feeds in the  
fall very largely upon the wild celery and this  
plant is supposed to impart the particularly fine

flavor to its flesh, but as many other species also  
feed extensively upon this plant, it would seem  
that as far as the epicure is concerned there is  
more in the name than in the flavor, and many a  
Red-head and other duck is enjoyed under the  
name of Canvas-back.

The main breeding ground of the Canvas-back  
is just east of the Rockies, in Alberta. It used  
to winter in immense flocks on Chesapeake Bay,  
but it has been so much hunted there that few  
winter there now. It winters along both the At-  
lantic and Pacific Coasts.

The Blue-bill is another member of this group.  
It is quite a striking bird with its abruptly-  
marked black and white coloration. It is some-  
times called "Raft Duck" from its habit of lying  
out in open water in large raft-like flocks.

Another member of this group is a peculiar-  
looking duck with a musical voice, known as the  
Old Squaw or Long-tailed duck. Most of the  
ducks have only a quack or a squawk as a note,  
but the Old Squaw has a series of soft, nicely-  
modulated notes which sound as though they were  
played on some reed instrument.

The Old Squaw breeds on the Arctic Coasts,  
and winters on the Great Lakes and along  
both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

### Europe Through Canadian Eyes--VIII.

#### A GROWING SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY.

It is interesting to inquire into the origin and  
growth of the democratic spirit in England as  
compared to its rise and progress in Holland.  
Even since the Norman conquest, at which time  
the authority of the king and his chief barons  
was absolute and unquestioned, the people of  
England have been steadily limiting the power of  
their rulers and transferring it to themselves.  
Not by revolutions, except in the case of Charles  
I., but by patient and increasing recognition and  
assertions of their rights, has this process gone  
on and is still going on. In King John's time  
it was the barons who forced his unwilling hand  
to sign the Magna Charta. Since then the strife  
has been taken up by so-called lower and yet  
lower orders of society, until, at length, we see  
the working man stoutly standing out for his  
share in the conduct of affairs, and dictating to  
party leaders the policy they shall pursue. The  
people of Holland, on the other hand, from the  
earliest period of their history, were impatient of  
any authority except their own. Having to co-  
operate in the construction of dikes to keep back  
the sea and make their land habitable, "a par-  
ticular habit of union, goodwill, and reciprocal  
justice" was developed in them. This habit of  
mind tends not only to mutual respect but also  
to self-respect, and a feeling of equality one with  
another which will brook no tyranny. This in-  
dependence of spirit, exhibited from the very  
first, though often savagely repressed by aggres-  
sive monarchs of other European countries, was  
never entirely crushed. In the sixteenth century  
the king of Spain was the absolute and harsh  
master of the country, but the Hollanders not  
relishing such ruling rebelled, and after a stern  
struggle of eighty years had their independence  
established, and recognized by the Powers in  
1648. The leader in this long contest was  
William, Prince of Orange, known as William the  
Silent. His grandson, another Prince of Orange, be-  
came William III., of England, and his praises are  
lauded every twelfth of July. William the Silent  
freely sacrificed his personal property and spent  
his energies in order that Holland might be freed  
from the Spanish yoke, but was assassinated before  
the work was completed. To hear the Dutch  
speak of him makes one realize what hero wor-  
ship means. The royal family of to-day is re-  
garded with an affection that is unique among  
the nations, because of being his direct descen-  
dants. But the kingdom is virtually a republic  
and proud of its liberties, and should the house  
of Orange cease to be or cease to occupy the  
throne, no attempt to set another family in its  
place would be tolerated. They are content as  
they are; out of gratitude to the house of  
Orange lavishing affection and attention on Queen  
Wilhelmina, but guardedly cherishing their right  
to govern themselves.

In Germany the democratic spirit is growing  
rapidly. Our informant was a German pastor of  
Basel, who, though opposed to the Socialist  
party, freely admitted that it was becoming in-  
creasingly dominant. He warmly supported the  
Kaiser, because the latter favored religion, was  
deeply religious himself, while the Socialists were  
openly opposed to anything of the kind. He  
wished us to distinguish, however, between the  
Socialists of Germany and those of the same name  
in America. Some American Socialists, he said,  
are really anarchists, while the Socialists of Ger-  
many would merely be classed as radicals in our  
country, a very different thing.

The monarchy is gone in France, never to re-  
turn, so our French friends informed us. They  
did not dispute the fact that was suggested to