

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

Published weekly by  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"  
Winnipeg, Man.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries, 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order, Postal Note, Express Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we will not be responsible.
7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must be Given."
9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.
10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ADDRESSES OF CORRESPONDENTS ARE CONSIDERED AS CONFIDENTIAL and will not be forwarded.
14. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or  
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited),  
London, Canada.

### The Store Bill.

The fall of the year is a season of bills on the farm. Taxes fall due, doctors' accounts must be paid, (though fortunately these are comparatively few in the country,) blacksmiths' accounts are rendered, implements bought on time must be settled for and all too often there is a big store bill to meet. This latter, very often, causes trouble in the home, and between its occupants and the storekeeper. Store bills have a way of mounting up very rapidly and if allowed to run for any great length of time the receiver of the goods, the man who must pay, very often becomes suspicious as to whether or not he really got all the goods for which he is charged. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he got every article, but nevertheless he has his suspicion, which is not a good thing for business. We believe that, in the long run, it would be far more satisfactory, in so far as store accounts are concerned, if the storekeepers insisted upon cash and the consumers of their goods insisted upon paying it. It seems very easy to run along getting the necessities for the home week after week without paying cash, but pay day always comes and when the time arrives that the storekeeper sends his bill and insists upon a straightening out of the account, the buyer of the goods is very often not in as good a position to pay as he was each time when the various articles were bought. Besides, credit is not conducive to economy. Many things are bought on credit which could very well be done without, and would be done without were there no credit system. Credit breeds extravagance, carelessness, thoughtlessness, debt. It is just as convenient to pay for things when they are purchased or at least to straighten the accounts each month (when the milk checks come in), as it is to allow the whole to run until the first of a certain month and then get a year's bill at a time a year's savings to meet it are not available. The store bill, much as the storekeeper would like to help those who deal with him, is not a factor towards successful agriculture. It is really a bad habit which should be avoided by paying as we go.

### Cash or Trade?

Too much of what the farmer produces, particularly in the way of butter and eggs has in the past been taken out in trade, which at this progressive age should be an obsolete method of exchange. Butter and eggs and all other farm products should be sold for the highest cash price which they will bring in open market, and the country storekeeper has just as good right, if he deals in these products, to pay cash as he has to demand cash for the goods which he sells to those who have no butter and eggs. The woman who carts her baskets of eggs and butter to the country grocery and there exchanges them year in and year out for the goods which the country grocer has in stock is not making the best of her products, and as a general thing, is not buying the goods she needs to the best advantage. True, the grocer usually allows a cent or two per dozen or per pound more when the producer is willing to exchange the butter and eggs for what he has to sell, but the grocer does not very often allow a price as high as he gets for the products. In short, he makes a double profit in handling trade products, namely—on the products and on his goods. But worst of all is the carelessness which often creeps in in handling the farm products before they reach the ultimate consumer. The grocer does not demand candled eggs, and so does not get them. For fear of losing trade he has to take anything which is offered him. Very often he has not the facilities with which to handle the products when he gets them and the eggs sit around in large baskets near the stove, or under the counter, and by the time they reach the consumer in the city, even if fresh when leaving the farm, they are decidedly stale. A far better plan all around, for both grocer and producer is a cash deal. Sell the butter and eggs for cash and buy the drygoods and groceries necessary for the farm home on the same basis. This will insure greater satisfaction for producer, for grocer and drygoods man and for the consumer. And, the producer of butter and eggs will be sure that he or she gets all that is in them. Cash is better than trade.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

Several of our feathered winter visitors from the north have arrived, among them being the Redpolls and Snowflakes. Both these birds belong to the Fringillidae or Finch Family, as indeed do most of our winter visitors and winter residents. The reason for this preponderance of finches among our winter birds is readily understood when we consider their food-habits. The finches are birds with what are termed "conirostral" bills that is either fairly, or decidedly, heavy bills adapted for crushing seeds, and while during the summer they feed largely on insects, in the fall and winter they turn their attention to a seed diet, and can therefore live and thrive under conditions which would be fatal to a strictly insectivorous bird. Even the majority of those finches such as the Song Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow which breed with us and leave in the fall do not go very far south to winter. They go only as far as the northern tier of States and remain there feeding on seeds of various kinds, very largely on weed-seeds. Their place is taken by finches from the north, such as the Redpoll, Tree Sparrow and Snowflake, which visit us in flocks, scouring our fields in their search for weedseed and rendering a great service to the farmer in this manner. It has sometimes been thought that these seed-eating birds may be agents in the spreading of weeds, by the dropping of undigested seeds, the idea arising from the well-known fact that fruit-eating birds are active agents in the dissemination of various species of plants. But careful experiments have proved that all seeds eaten by birds are so finely ground up by the action of the mandibles and of the strong muscular gizzard that no seeds capable of germination are to be found among their excrement. And if we think for a moment we see that this is only natural, since in the case of the seed-eaters their nourishment is derived from the seeds themselves, and to obtain it the seeds must be digested, while in the case of fruit-eating species the nourishment comes from the pulp of the fruit and the hard seed is excreted in a good condition for subsequent germination.

The Redpoll is about five and one-half inches in length. The upper parts are streaked with dusky-brown, flaxen color in about equal amounts, the rump is white or rose color, the sides are streaked with grayish-brown, the abdomen is dull white and the crown bears a cap of crimson, this latter characteristic giving the bird its name.

This species is a common winter visitor in the southern portions of Canada from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, but like all our winter Fringillidae it is irregular and erratic in its distribution, being abundant in one locality during some winters and very scarce during others.

The Redpoll breeds in the north, in Alaska, around Hudson Bay and in Labrador. It builds a compact nest of fine rootlets and grasses, lined with down and feathers, in a low tree, usually in a dwarf willow, which

is the most abundant "tree" in these regions. The eggs are from four to five in number, and are pale bluish-white, speckled with reddish-brown, in color.

While with us we hear only its sharp, clinking call-notes as the flocks fly high in the air over our heads.

The Snowflake is about seven inches in length. In breeding plumage it is pure white, with the back wings and tail variegated with black, but in the plumage in which it appears in southern Canada the white is clouded with clear, warm brown. It breeds even farther north than the Redpoll, being circumpolar in distribution. Nelson, writing of this breeding of this species in Alaska says: "About Plover Bay, on the high mountains rising abruptly from the water, I found it common a-breeding the last of June. At the base of the bluff were the ruined huts of the famine-stricken Eskimo, and the steep hillside was studded with the glistening skulls of the victims. Every large depression held a heavy snowdrift, and the tops of the hills were gray with masses of lichen-colored rocks or a stunted vegetation. On the summit overlooking the desolate scene were two walrus-hide huts, sheltering the few survivors of the village. As we made our way to these huts we were greeted by the hard rattling 'chirr' of several Snow Buntings as they flew from place to place before us. Their note was different from any I ever heard them utter during their winter visit to the south, and was one of protest or alarm. Just back of the huts, about a hundred yards distant on the hillside, and sheltered by a slight tussock was placed a warm, closely-made structure of fine grass stems, interwoven throughout with feathers and the cottony seed-tops of plants. The central depression was built uniformly like the rest of the nest, which contained one egg."

The Snowflake, which is often called the Snowbird in Canada, frequently appears in immense flocks, flocks of several hundred, which cover the greater part of a large field when they settle down on it.

## THE HORSE.

Exercise offsets disease dangers.

A little salt is a necessary corrective.

A strong halter shank saves later trouble.

If you have a horse for sale put flesh on him.

Lice lessen the colt's chances for rapid growth.

A cheap headstall is a fertile cause of "pullers".

Feed a few roots and save oats and veterinary bills.

A rope or chain behind the horses stops kicking dangers.

Feed rolled or crushed oats and make the grain "spin out."

Who can tell what the prices for horses are going to be next spring?

Do not allow the blacksmith to pare the horses' feet down too much.

Too much cold water will increase the feed required for a maintenance ration.

If any stable must be neglected do not let it be the horse stable. Keep it clean.

The horse demand, though slack, will come back. The man who sticks wins.

"Doll" doesn't like to work in "Bill's" collar. It doesn't fit her shoulders.

Four hours in an open yard is not too long for the young horses on fine days.

A manger full of hay and never empty is not very appetizing, even for a horse.

If any of the horses must be "stinted" let it be the older animals, not the colts.

Boards on top of cement are better than cement without boards for a horse-stable floor.

Horses dislike hens in the stables just as much as does a good horseman. Hens carry lice.

Too many work horses without work are a load on the farm. Better make some of them breeders.

Do not wait until the in-foal mare falls on the ice before deciding to keep her sharp shod on at least her two front feet.

The man who would cross a Standard-bred mare with a Clydesdale or Percheron stallion generally is ready to affirm that "There's no money in horses".

Some say twice-a-day feeding is sufficient and we believe that two feeds of grain are enough but the horse's stomach is a rather small organ and the animal often becomes restless if no feed is given at noon. We favor a light feed of hay morning and noon comprising in the two feeds, about half the day's hay ration, the remainder of the hay to be given at night.

### Winte

Below an experimental wintering of the feeds used to, and when Dominion.

Help is so that large to be employed good team at often hard t in the autumn the ground fr all horses wh them as ch future usefu

To gather was started been continuing mares and g five to eight fared well on one pound each one h did they during the following energy.

The rule down the w November 15 in box stalls. with the ex or so. On A a small qua by May 1 th and were on be forgotten: and to leave

If horses, condition, the before being exercise shou stocking. An so as to clean should also restless than means that above menti decreased sli

Mixed sla or weed whi or musty, an of timothy. though the f are sometime on the part o are not giv as animals a thrive very v should be use

It would the hay and s there seems roughages wo necessary to them. The experim though it is are not of su there may be

It was not kept in box s not stock up. to turn the a permits, so t this case, it i