

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

PERSEVERE  
AND  
SUCCEED

ESTABLISHED

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

VOL. XLVIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 28, 1913.

No. 1092

## EDITORIAL

The Western fairs are over, and the Eastern fairs are on.

The proposition that if a man does not get rich he is a failure, is not likely to produce the best type of manhood on the farm or anywhere else.

Do not fail to sow timothy seed with the fall wheat. The chances for success are better than when it is left till spring and sown with clover seed. Timothy seed is still reasonable in price this fall, so use plenty of it.

Those who are hurrying in shoals to live in the cities, might do well to think over the observation of Hon. James Bryce, that "the further a people recedes from barbarism, so much more do the charms of nature appeal to it."

The citizen of a democracy who knows not what he thinks and why he thinks it, becomes a tool of designing interests who know just what they want, and to obtain it employ means that are always clever and often subtle.

So far as we know, the long-distance record for questioning has been made by a recent enquirer who asked twenty-one in a single budget. If all our thirty-odd thousand subscribers were as curious as that, we would have to close up shop—or hire a phonograph.

There is a tendency to exaggerate the Western wheat crop. While it has improved greatly, the set-back received earlier in the season, especially on poorly prepared land, was too serious to be overcome. Buyers, of course, are willing to concede a bumper crop in order to force down the price.

An accurate system of cost accounting which takes labor and every other item fully into consideration, makes out a most excellent case for clover and alfalfa, as compared with grain or even corn. There should be more clover sown, and no one should allow himself to become easily discouraged with alfalfa either.

As soon as the grain fields are cleared is the time to begin preparations for next season's cropping. Skimming and harrowing will sprout weed seeds and stop a prodigal waste of moisture, which, if retained, would improve the condition of the soil by rendering plant food available. Such tillage also conduces to the retention of subsequent rainfall, and puts the land in good condition for the regular fall plowing.

In an American bulletin on farm book-keeping we find this very true paragraph: "Crops which are grown at a profit may, by being fed to a poor class of live-stock, have this profit turned into a loss. Live stock records, although not so easy to keep as those on crops, are often more useful to the farmer. It is poor policy to lose by injudicious feeding the profits on the crops grown."

And here is another:

"Labor distribution records are seldom kept by farmers, yet such records are in many respects equally as important as the cash account. A good bank balance is often the result of the efficient use of farm labor."

### Danger in Silos.

Approach of the silo-filling season reminds us of the danger that lurks in tight silos where a mass of decaying corn has been fermenting undisturbed for weeks, or, for that matter, in a newly-filled silo allowed to settle for a few days. Carbonic acid gas forms, and, being heavier than air, it settles and excludes the oxygen which alone can support respiration. Carbonic acid gas is not poisonous, but merely suffocating just as a vacuum would be. A lantern let down into it will go out as quickly as though it had been blown out, but more quietly, because there is no particular draft, unless the lantern is thrown in. The life of any animal will be likewise snuffed out in a hurry.

Last summer we wrote about a certain experience of our own, in which a cement silo in which some alfalfa had been put, filled up to the door level in a few hours with carbonic acid gas, which promptly extinguished a lantern let down into it.

There is always force in fresh instances. A prominent Oxford County farmer told us lately a striking experience. He had jumped into a nearly empty silo to spread the cut corn as it should be delivered from the blower. No sooner had he entered than he experienced a suffocating sensation. His heart beats became weak and he felt faint. He could not, by standing up, raise his head as high as the door through which he had entered, and decided not to exhaust himself by exercise. He sat down quietly and merely kept on top of the accumulating pile of corn. Soon the symptoms passed off. What happened was this: The wind from the blower set up a commotion which soon diluted the carbonic-acid gas with fresh life-sustaining atmosphere, and the percentage of gas became less and less, until soon there was a large enough percentage of oxygen to support respiration.

It is always well, when a condition of this kind is suspected, to try a lighted lantern or match in the silo before entering. If it continues to burn after being lowered to the bottom, one is quite safe. If not, start the blower or by some other means stir up the gas so that a safe proportion of pure air may be introduced. There is a small percentage of carbonic-acid gas or carbon dioxide in all the air we breathe. Only an excess is dangerous, and that merely by reducing the oxygen to too low a proportion.

### Satisfaction from Personal Effort.

There is always a particular satisfaction in a dollar earned by the creation of value through one's own individual effort. A certain young man who has left his farm temporarily for a professional position put the case well in conversation the other day. He said:

"The money that comes to me in my monthly pay check I think nothing of. It comes and it goes. I handle it, and to a certain extent I enjoy what I purchase with it, but no special interest attaches to it, and I don't save much out of it."

"On the other hand, when I sell a horse for two hundred dollars, of which I figure fifteen dollars is profit, that fifteen dollars is planked down into my jeans and stays there. I feel that I have created that value. It is the result of my own initiative and my own personal care and effort. There is more real satisfaction in each one of those fifteen dollars than in ten which come through the pay roll."

### Why Alfalfa Pays.

Most farm-grown rations, such as corn silage, straw, and roots, are more or less deficient in protein, the element that goes to make blood, muscle, and milk. Wheat bran is valuable, mainly because it contains 11.2 per cent. digestible protein. It sells for around \$20.00 a ton. Well-cured alfalfa hay contains 11 per cent. digestible protein, and is theoretically worth nearly nine-tenths as much as bran. Allow a margin and call it worth three-fourths as much per ton. Alfalfa should yield in three cuttings not less than four tons of cured hay per annum. Four tons at \$15.00, equals \$60.00. Deducting expenses of \$20.00 per acre for seeding and curing the hay, we have an annual net return of about \$40.00 per acre. With a large acreage on a farm, the pro rata value would be less than \$15.00, but a considerable amount should be worth \$10.00 to \$12.00, which still leaves a fine profit. Alfalfa thrives best and survives longest on the hard clay hillsides where other crops do poorly. Every farmer who owns such land should have at least from ten to twenty acres under alfalfa.

### Live Stock Pictures.

The reader need not be reminded that live stock illustrations form an attractive feature of the present Exhibition Number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." The pictures speak for themselves, and next to seeing the actual animals, disclose differences in breeds better than any verbal description, and modern ideals more effectually than any scale of points, however carefully compiled. Good types are presented deserving of careful study by the novice, and worthy for comparative purposes by the expert stockman. Representative examples will be found in succeeding pages of all the leading breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, and when "made in Canada", is so popular a catchword, it is gratifying to know that all were, when photographed, owned in the Dominion, and, for the most part, are the living, unpampered products of the skill of Canadian breeders. The importance of studying the highest attainments in the breeder's art in Great Britain or Europe is not disputed, but we believe it to be wise, on occasion, to let our own light shine. In painting, a good deal of latitude is allowed artists for the extra touches of imagination, but the photograph tells the actual story, and these photographs can be vouched for, because, with one exception, they are all "Canadian," and most of them from the camera of "The Farmer's Advocate." Compare them with what are to be found at home in your own flocks and herds. If the portrayals excel, let them serve as incentives to greater achievement in the future; if your own are deemed superior, it is surely a matter for legitimate personal satisfaction and good grounds for trying conclusions before the judges at some of the exhibitions yet to come this season.

Have you ever noticed how, when a field has been repeatedly plowed to a certain depth, a plow pan or furrow pan forms beneath the inverted layer, making it difficult to send the plowshare deeper? Yet, it would do many a field all kinds of good to give it a real thorough plowing, bring up an inch or two of this furrow pan, and exposing it to the action of a winter's frost.