

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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

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experimental work, to talk with neighbors who have a particularly good variety, and to select high-yielding sorts suitable to the particular soil upon which they are to be sown. When spring comes get on the land as early as possible, and give it the best spring cultivation it has ever had. There is too much slipshod work done on the farms. A great deal of it has in the past been due to scarcity of labor, but a little farm well tilled will usually put to shame, as far as yield is concerned, a big farm scratched over.

In advising increased acreage there is a danger that careless, slipshod methods will be practiced to a greater extent than heretofore. In the rush to get more acres worked this fall, ploughing may be carelessly done, and with so much to put in in the spring there is a tendency to hurriedly skip over the large acreage in a rush, endeavor to be done seeding as soon as the next neighbor. Better advice is not to attempt to put in more than the land can properly be prepared for. Of course, we are promised more help for the farms, but until that help is available and is actually working on the land we have no assurance that it is going to be obtainable and satisfactory. The rush to the city did not start in a day, neither will the rush back to the land be at a break-neck speed. Men must be shown that they are going to make more and work under better conditions in the country than in the city before they will start back, and even then the process will likely be slow, because many of them do not care for country life, and will stay away from it as long as possible.

There is no danger of cultivation being overdone, but there is a danger in many districts of over-doing the acreage in comparison with the number of men kept to work the land. Make the motto, "increased acreage if possible, but better cultivation first." It would be more profitable to sow forty acres of oats, and put them in so well that they yielded sixty bushels to the acre, than it

would be, to sow eighty acres with poor seed on poorly-worked soil and get a yield of only thirty bushels to the acre. These figures are not overdrawn. Sixty bushels is not the limit of good cultivation, and thirty bushels is by no means the lowest result possible from poor cultivation. They only serve to bring home the fact that it is not the big acreage that gives the largest amount of grain, but it is the acreage put in in such a manner that large yields are assured. We sincerely hope that more thorough and more systematic methods of cultivation will be practiced, and that the acreage will not be increased at the expense of yield per acre. The duty of the producer is plain.

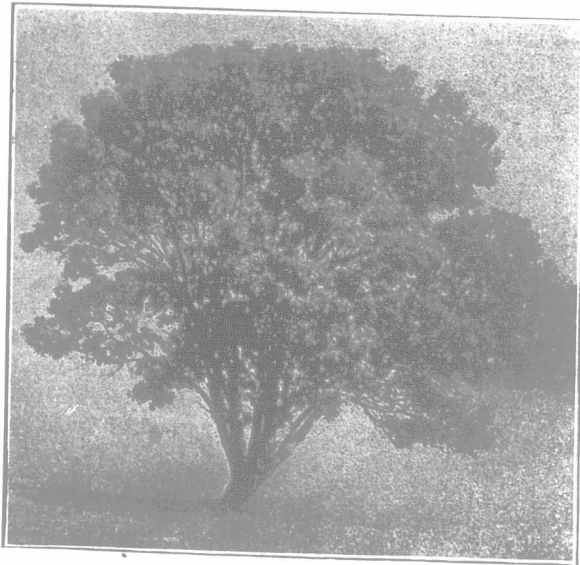
Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

Now is the harvest time of many of our wild plants. Acorns, Beechnuts, Hickory nuts, and Butter nuts are falling to the ground throughout the East. In the southwestern portions of Ontario Chestnuts and Black Walnuts are ripe. Hawthorns stand aglow with their red fruits, wild grapes hang in black clusters from the vines. On the Pacific Coast the Dogwood trees, which stood like huge banks of snow with their large flowers in May, are now a blaze of scarlet fruit. Many plants which were inconspicuous in flower are now prominent in fruit. The flowers of the Cranberry tree (*Viburnum Opulus*) are white and comparatively small, but the fruits are large and of a clear, bright red. The fruit is very acid, and is often used as a substitute for cranberries. This shrub, which is also known as the High-bush Cranberry, and *Pimbina*, is found along streams and in moist thickets in most of the wooded parts of Canada.

The Staghorn Sumach in June bears clusters of greenish flowers which are far from conspicuous, but at this season of the year the large panicles of densely hairy, red fruits make it a marked feature of the landscape. The bark on the older branches is brown and smooth, the younger branches are clothed with long, soft hairs, which at first are pink, change from pink to green the first year, become dark and shorter the second year, and are shed the third or fourth year. The range of this species is from Eastern Quebec to Winnipeg. The fruit maintains its red color well into the winter, and eventually turns brown. These fruits are eaten by many birds, and a flock of Evening Grosbeaks, which I came across on the Bruce Peninsula in May were feeding on them.

Another plant which is decidedly attractive in fruit is the so-called Black Alder or Winterberry, (*Ilex verticillata*), a shrub which is not an Alder



Arbutus Tree.

at all, but which belongs to the same genus as the Hollies. The fruits are bright red, and are clustered close about the stem. This plant is common in many swamps from Nova Scotia to Western Ontario.

The Climbing Bitter-sweet or Waxwork is extremely ornamental in fruit. The outside of the pods are bright orange, and when the pods open their segments are reflexed and display the scarlet covering of the seeds within. This climber is common in many localities from the Atlantic to Manitoba.

The Dogwoods of our Eastern woods are fairly conspicuous with their clusters of small white flowers when in bloom, but are even more so when in fruit. The fruit of the Red-osier Dogwood is white or pale blue, of the Panicle Dogwood white, of the Silky Cornel, or *Kinnikinnik*, pale blue, and of the Alternate-leaved Dogwood blue.

In rocky localities in the East the Mountain Ash with its large clusters of red fruit is very

attractive to the eye. It is also attractive to the birds, and the Robins levy heavy toll upon it. Such fruit as is left by the Robins is much appreciated by the Grosbeaks which come down from the north in the winter. Even more striking than the plant common in the East is the Elder-leaved Mountain Ash of the Rockies and Selkirks. This little tree, though rarely reaching fifteen feet in height, has larger and even brighter fruit than the Mountain Ash.

On the Pacific Coast the red fruits of the Arbutus tree are very striking in the autumn. This is one of the most beautiful trees in the world. The bark is a light-reddish-chocolate color and the leaves are large, oval, ever-green and shiny above. The outer bark peels off in thin layers in the spring and early summer, revealing the new bark beneath, which is a light green. This new bark gradually turns olive and finally assumes the characteristic light chocolate hue. This tree ranges from British Columbia to California. In the States it is called by the Spanish name Madrona, but in Canada the name Arbutus Tree, which is derived from the scientific name *Arbutus Menziesii*, is used.

A Problem for the Feeder.

Buying feeder and stocker cattle is never the surest proposition that a man can tackle, but circumstances this year have placed the cattle feeder in a more perplexing position than for some time. A combination of circumstances has caused a rapid advance in the price of all kinds of feeding stuffs, while values of cattle for feeding purposes have also risen. Those intending to feed cattle during the coming winter must stop and weigh the matter carefully before buying their cattle, or they are likely to run into something which will not pay them as well as it has done on some occasions. With prices for good feeders running up as high as \$7.50 per cwt., and wheat commanding a price of from \$1.15 to \$1.20 per bushel, while oats may be sold at from 50c. to 60c., rye at 75c., barley at 65c., and peas up to \$1.15, and with shorts and middlings ranging around \$30.00 per ton, and hay and other roughage unusually high in price, only a good feeder with the very best class of cattle is going to be able to make the price of his grain, fair wages for labor, interest on investment, and a reasonable profit thereafter. We would caution buyers to exercise more care in making their purchases of feeder cattle than they have ever done in the past. There is no knowing what may be the market conditions before next spring is reached. The outcome of the present turmoil in Europe is beyond conjecture. People are being thrown out of employment already in thousands, and earnings are being decreased very materially. Meat is a high-priced diet, and one of the articles upon which a cutting-down will be made first. If this reaches any appreciable extent it may have the effect of temporarily decreasing the demand and lowering prices. There is a great scarcity of beef cattle the world over and prices are not likely to be permanently lowered, but conditions may be such at the time the cattle are ready for market that a lower price than anticipated would be all that could be commanded, and the cattle might go at a loss.

Of course, there is a danger of this in any year, but not so much so as during the present season. It is certainly a time for careful buying and careful feeding, and the man who selects the very best class of stock, gets it at a fair price, and follows all this with economical feeding stands the best chance to win. American buyers have been coming on our Canadian markets, particularly Toronto, where no later than last week one buyer made the remark that prices for stocker and feeder cattle were the highest in America. He returned without cattle, sure that he could make better bargains in his own country. Cattle are scarce but there is still such a thing as buying feeders too dear, especially with all kinds of feed very high in price.

We hope that the conditions will not curtail cattle feeding operations, and induce farmers to sell most of their products in the raw state. This would not be good policy, and if persisted in would certainly prove a detriment to Canadian agriculture. There is a fair profit in stockers and feeders at what might be termed a fair price, and prices should not be held out of all proportion to possible returns for the finished product. Buying cattle to feed is more or less of a gamble no-

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