

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.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or 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 and Scotland, \$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 arrearsages must be made as required by law.
5. **THE LAW IS,** that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearsages are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
6. **REMITTANCES** should be made direct to us, either by Money 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 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. **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.

CANADIAN FICTION FOR CANADIAN PEOPLE.

Among the many influences that have delayed Canada's development, by withdrawing so many of her people from the land, and ultimately to the neighboring Republic, one of the most difficult to reckon with, has been the deluge of fiction of United States and European origin, nearly all tending to interest its readers in urban occupations and spheres of achievement. Most makers of modern fiction have dealt with the farm as probably a good enough place to be born, but a better place to get away from. There has been singularly little fiction produced to portray the picturesque in Canadian rural life and draw our attention to its humor and pathos. Lacking such books, we have yielded to the humdrum tendency of habitual daily duty, and come to look upon farm life as dull prose rather than inspiring and refreshing poetry, which it certainly is when studied through appreciative eyes.

When you come to think of it, we have had comparatively little literature or art that is truly and essentially Canadian by Canadian authors, about Canadian people living their lives right here at home in modern Canada. Chas. G. D. Roberts has based some thrilling narratives on the stirring times of French Acadie; Gilbert Parker and Drummond have written entertaining prose and verse about the Habitant; Agnes Laut has successfully exploited the times of the Hudson's Bay trapper; and Ralph Connor has enriched English fiction with some very popular novels, drawn from Scotch characters transplanted to Glengarry Co., Ont., and generally removed, before he is through with them, to scenes of commercial activity in the Far West. But Anison North, in "Carmichael," has portrayed with artistic perception and endowed with romantic human interest the Canadian life of an Ontario farm community, that is, Scotch, English, Irish, French and German, but rather a composite of all—pure, and distinctly, really Canadian. The Mallors and Carmichael, the

Might, Miss Tring, the patient schoolman; Yorkie Dodd, and the unique creation, Old Chris, the hired man, become very real to the reader, whether familiar with the environment of the farm or not. In writing it, she has placed her native land under a large debt of obligation, more especially as its success will encourage other Canadian writers to look for their subjects at home. Thus may we develop wholesome national literature that will correct and guide the ambitions of Canadian youth to prize the opportunities at home. It is hard to estimate the helpful influences of a good novel, but certain it is that, long after our editorials and contributed articles are forgotten, this story, vivid with individual experience and replete with human interest, will be shaping the lives of boys and girls and influencing parents for their betterment. "Carmichael," the new Canadian story, will assuredly and deservedly attract an increasing popularity.

A THREE-YEAR ROTATION QUITE PRACTICABLE

In another column an octogenarian reader, who signs himself "Of Farmer," sets forth, by a series of well-chosen illustrations, the great importance of a regular change or rotation of crops in restoring and increasing the fertility of the soil, as well as in guarding against and combating weeds, insects and fungous pests. In the article, however, a question is raised as to the practicability of a three-course or four-course rotation for the hundred-acre Ontario dairy farm, our correspondent seeming to favor a cycle of seven years.

Now, we could name quite a few of the most successful farmers in this Province, dairy husbandmen among the rest, who adhere as closely as seasons permit, to either the three-course or four-course system. Probably the best-managed dairy farm we have ever seen was one of 108 acres in Ontario County, on which thirty-five cows, four horses, about fifty hogs and some poultry were kept the year round on the produce of the farm, plus a few tons of purchased millfeed. Over thirty acres on the east side of this farm is very hilly, and was seeded years ago to permanent pasture. The remainder was divided into three fields, and cropped with a three-year rotation, consisting of: First year, corn (20 acres), mangels and potatoes, with an odd acre each of peas and Soy beans; second year, mixed grain (barley and oats), seeded to clover; third year, one crop hay, with pasture on the aftermath. Estimating from the capacity of the silos, the corn averaged over 20 tons of silage per acre, while the mixed grain ran 60 to 70 bushels, that would weigh, perhaps, 40 to 45 pounds per heaping bushel from the machine. The writer cultivated the corn and shocked the grain himself, so "kens" well what he is speaking about. This farm had been taken in a run-down condition, and in a very few years, under the three-course system, was rapidly increasing in crop-yielding power, as compared with neighboring homesteads farmed on less up-to-date systems.

What was accomplished by its owner may be repeated almost anywhere, with minor modifications to suit special circumstances. If one has no land he wishes to lay down to permanent pasture, he might possibly prefer a four-course system of hoe crops, grain, hay, pasture. Some may object that such a rotation as either of these involves too large a proportion of hoe crop. We think not. Scarcely any of us are raising half as much corn as it would pay us to grow. However, if desired, the area of hoe crop may easily be reduced by grouping with it a piece of peas, mixed fodder crop, or even barley, sowing fall wheat on the stubble and spring grain after the corn and roots. When the turn for hoe crop on this division comes round again, put the peas, fodder crop or barley on the field that formerly grew roots, and vice versa. Thus we have virtually a six-year or an eight-year rotation, with the simplicity and convenience of a three-year or four-year course.

Our correspondent truly points out the unwisdom of sowing the same crop two years in succession on the same land, but failed to note that it is also undesirable to have two crops of the same class in immediate succession. While oats and barley is a better arrangement than oats and peas, neither is good, and should not be repeated except as a makeshift. We should

avoid, when possible, planting two cereal crops in succession or two hoe crops in succession, and never miss a chance to seed down with a grain crop, especially with fall wheat.

There are those who complain that such a system as outlined allows too few fields for convenience in pasturing, but this objection is readily surmountable. Fifty to one hundred rods of hurdles or other portable fencing solve the difficulty, and in this age of labor scarcity, the wisdom of large fields to permit advantageous use of fast-working implements, surely requires no argument. Others may fault this system because it brings roots on inverted sod; but this, instead of being a weakness, is a strong point. While difficulty might be experienced in preparing a tough blue grass or timothy sward for roots, when a short rotation is practiced and the land left but one or at most two years in meadow, and that chiefly clover, the resulting sod, when fall-plowed, makes ideal conditions for growing roots.

One point our correspondent raises which has almost escaped notice in this country, but to which we are disposed to attach some importance, is the danger of clover sickness. This is a condition of the land, more or less common in the Old Country, under which clover refuses to grow successfully. The philosophy of it is yet undetermined, but the cause ascribed is too frequent seeding to this crop. In Canada, however, we have yet to hear of a case of clover sickness, although there are localities where it has been grown regularly for half a century or more. Our trouble is not too much but too little clovering. If symptoms of clover sickness ever appear with us, we can try alfalfa as a substitute, or probably by that time our land will be rich enough to stand the drain of more frequent cropping with timothy. Meantime, fear of it would not persuade us to forego the numerous and marked benefits of a three-course or four-course system.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

It is, in all the circumstances, most extraordinary how thoroughly the awakening East, in so far, at least, as the term is applied to Japan, is conforming to the very latest and most approved systems of industry. She has surprised the world in arms, a complete revolution having occurred in her methods before the other nations of it took any cognizance. In industrial movements she is now developing so rapidly that the old manufacturing communities, affected by the enervating influences of monopoly, are having harrowing nightmares over direful and impending conditions. In general husbandry, which she is shrewd enough to see is basic of all other prosperity, she is now setting to work with an energy which must go far to remove all obstacles to complete success. In the disturbing times of war, of course, agriculture languishes; peace once established, there is always a new impetus given to the production of those things upon which the nation must survive.

There has been a complete Americanization, so to speak, of field culture in Japan within recent years; and since the rural peoples respond slowest to the influence of science in their specific callings, it is really marvellous what has been done in this way, not only in the centers, but even in the extremities of the Insular Empire. Animal husbandry, strange to say, has registered a slower progress than anything else in the great field of agricultural endeavor. Now, there is a sharp and clear clarion call made by the national leaders in this regard. And it will be obeyed as in no other country; for, with the Japanese, obedience is really a virtue.

Whatever may have been the perfections of the native cattle away off in the twilight of time, it is now admitted by all who have the advantages of comparison that they are, through inbreeding and other causes, a very inferior race of animals. The ends of the earth have been brought together so completely in the latter part of the nineteenth century that interassociation and the interests and adventures of commerce have made the remotest and most forbidding sections come out into the light of day, and affect or be affected by the interchange. The centers of agricultural education leavened but the contiguous portions of the world's black lump of ignorance, even a score of years ago; to-day those centers are so multiplied that the flood of their light "stretches from end