

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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## 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  
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## 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 occupa-  
tions 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 suc-  
cessfully 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 Anson North, in "Carmichael,"  
has portrayed with artistic perception and en-  
dowed with romantic human interest the Canadian  
life of an Ontario farm community that is  
Scotch, English, Irish, French or German, but  
rather a composite of all—purely and distinctly  
Canadian. The Mallons and Carmichaels, who

Might, Miss Tring, the patient schoolman; Yorkie  
Dodd, and the unique creation, Old Chris, the hired  
man, become very real to the reader, whether fami-  
liar 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 edi-  
torials 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 in-  
creasing 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 re-  
storing and increasing the fertility of the soil, as  
well as in guarding against and combating weeds,  
insects and fungous pests. In the article, how-  
ever, a question is raised as to the practicability  
of a three-course or four-course rotation for the  
hundred-acre Ontario dairy farm, our correspond-  
ent seeming to favor a cycle of seven years.

Now, we could name quite a few of the most  
successful farmers in this Province, dairy husband-  
men 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 neighbor-  
ing homesteads farmed on less up-to-date systems.

What was accomplished by its owner may be  
repeated almost anywhere, with minor modifica-  
tions to suit special circumstances. If one has  
no land he wishes to lay down to permanent pas-  
ture, he might possibly prefer a four-course sys-  
tem of hoe crops, grain, hay, pasture. Some may  
object that such a rotation as either of these in-  
volves 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. How-  
ever, 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 vir-  
tually 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 unwise-  
dom of sowing the same crop two years in suc-  
cession 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  
after barley is a better arrangement than oats  
after oats, neither is good, and should not be  
resorted to 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 sys-  
tem as outlined allows too few fields for con-  
venience in pasturing, but this objection is readily  
surmountable. Fifty to one hundred rods of  
hurdles or other portable fencing solve the diffi-  
culty, and in this age of labor scarcity, the wis-  
dom of large fields to permit advantageous use of  
fast-working implements, surely requires no argu-  
ment. Others may fault this system because it  
brings roots on inverted sod; but this, instead of  
being a weakness, is a strong point. While diffi-  
culty 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 condi-  
tion of the land, more or less common in the  
Old Country, under which clover refuses to grow  
successfully. The philosophy of it is yet unde-  
termined, 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, al-  
though 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 per-  
suade 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 extraordi-  
nary 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 manufac-  
turing communities, affected by the enervating in-  
fluences of monopoly, are having harrowing night-  
mares 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, agricul-  
ture 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 hus-  
bandry, 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 inter-  
change. 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