

## 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 classes 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.
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vanishes into the devious recesses of Loss. But in the long run we win by faith—faith based on knowledge, and tending, therefore, to a satisfactory ultimate result.

Honor and courage, then, to the husbandman, by whose hand all men live! By faith he has labored, and by new and larger faith he shall yet more abundantly achieve—faith in the Scriptural promise, coupled with faith in the help and knowledge offered by modern science.

The opportunity of another spring time and the promise of future progress lie ahead. It is a season to toil diligently, cheered by an expanding hope.

### Read the Answers.

One of the largest departments of our editorial work comes under the "Questions and Answers" columns. We always endeavor to make this one of the most interesting and valuable departments to our readers. Many very good questions, of vital importance, are answered through these columns, but there is just one drawback, if such it may be called, and that is repetition. We do not mind repeating answers at intervals, but frequently we get several questions which have been answered through these columns in a very recent issue. It takes valuable time and more valuable space to republish replies. The way to avoid it is to read these columns more carefully, and, before asking the question, make sure that it has not been answered in a recent issue of the paper, all copies of which should be kept on file. We urge our readers to peruse our "Q. & A." columns more carefully. Much good practical information is given. It will pay to do so, and will, we hope, avoid an undue amount of frequent and unnecessary repetition in these columns, and thus make them of greater benefit. The careful reader does not care to be reading, week after week, replies to the same queries. There is plenty of fresh matter to be discussed. Remember, we are not wishing to curtail the questions.

They are too important for that, but we desire to make these columns of greatest advantage to every reader, and, to do so, needless repetition must be avoided.

### Public Speaking.

Every young man does well to try to excel in public speaking. There are public occasions when the rule that used to govern the public appearance of children, "You should be seen, but not heard," applies to old and young alike. One's wisdom is not made greater or more manifest by his much speaking. At the same time, there are circumstances when "words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pitchers of silver." That one may prove equal to such an occasion, is worth all the training and the study involved. Some men are public speakers by instinct, but the great majority of those to whom the public delight to listen are men who have fitted themselves by hard self-discipline.

The young man, therefore, who would become an effective public speaker, will do well to attend gatherings where discussion, rather than long speeches, is in order. For instance, there is the Farmers' Institute, where familiar subjects are threshed out in an informal way. Everyone is asked to give his opinion upon some every-day topic, and in this lies the young man's opportunity. Let him aim to say one thing, to say all that he intended to say on that particular subject, and to stop when he is through. One of the best paragraph writers in Canadian journalism gave this advice to his staff: "Cut off the head and tail of your articles. Let us have the facts." The same rule applies to the first utterances of a public speaker. As the young man's range of experience widens, his opportunities for making longer speeches will grow. Let it ever be remembered that a man has influence not because of his wordiness, but because what he says is well heard, readily understood, well thought out, and suits the occasion.

It is well, too, for the young speaker to acquire the habit of doing his talking within a definite time limit. Private practice will greatly assist in this. Let a subject be chosen, and then let a time-limit be set. Then the speaker should turn away from the clock, treat his subject fully, and note the time occupied. In his next treatment of this topic he should aim to be briefer than he was in the first treatment, and so on, until he has reduced his treatment of the subject to the fewest words consistent with clearness and fullness. There should be no omission of what is essential. There should be no weakness due to the use of unnecessary words. Whatever was in vogue in the brave days of old, long speeches are very rarely effective or acceptable in these hurrying, practical times. The habit of brevity induces strength and dignity and influence. When the occasion comes, the man who has acquired the habit of clear, concise, pithy utterance will not be found wanting should longer speech be required. It must be remembered that public-speaking is a difficult art in which to excel. The beginner, therefore, should not be discouraged if his first efforts prove comparatively weak. Few men ever satisfy themselves by their public utterances. The chief satisfaction that comes to any public speaker arises from the fact that he has uttered a needed message, without injury to any, and with benefit to his listeners. O. C. York County, Ont.

Among the farm equipment to be overhauled before spring work commences, there is no more important implement or machine than the spraying outfit. Spraying is work that requires the greatest possible efficiency, and, to get this, every detail of the tank, pump, hose, nozzles and equipment must be in good repair. Test the pump, to see if it is working properly, and carefully examine all hose, and replace defective nozzles with new ones which have been tested, and see that the entire outfit is ready to take the orchard on short notice.

How many farmsteads have felt, during the past winter, the need of windbreaks? The scarcity of trees around the buildings is a matter of general comment in driving through the country, and there seems to be no reasonable excuse why this should be so. Nothing adds to the value of a place in proportion to cost, as does a well-set windbreak, and nothing adds more to the comfort of the family than a shelter in winter and shade in summer. Now is the time to arrange for the planting of the needed trees and shrubs. No better advice can be given than "Plant now."

## HORSES.

Are your horses in good condition for the approaching spring work?

There is no better assurance of the value of a stallion than a large number of good colts. Where possible, see some of the horse's get before deciding to use him on your best mares.

Where the horses are not clipped, regular cleaning before the spring's work commences and during the season, will do much to keep their coats in good condition, and a good coat indicates a condition of health and fitness for the work required of them.

Where the mare is to foal before the warm weather sets in, a good box stall is a necessity. It is well to prepare the stall some time before the colt is expected, and get the mare accustomed to it. Keep it scrupulously clean and well bedded, and just prior to foaling have all the manure and old straw removed, and bed down with fresh, clean straw.

Overfeeding the mare just previous to and for a few days after parturition should be carefully avoided. Such practices often cause dysentery or other digestive troubles in the colt. It is far more advisable to cut the grain ration down a little than to increase it at this period, but as soon as the colt is strong, liberal feeding can be safely practiced.

The spring operations must be done in as short time as possible, consequently the fast-walking horse is most valuable. This is a good hint to those who are breaking colts. A good walker is greatly to be desired in any class of horse, but more particularly is this so of the draft animals. Teach the horses to walk at a brisk gait. It means a great saving of time, and the work is accomplished more quickly and with greater satisfaction.

It is not fair to expect the in foal mare to do as much heavy work during seeding as the geldings or mares not in foal. True, the mare accustomed to light work and regular exercise will do considerable work and not be injured, but she should get the lightest of the work, such as harrowing and drilling, in preference to the more strenuous labor of drawing the disk or cultivator. When working beside an able mate, an inch or two doubletree advantage can often be given, and relieves the mare of extra strain.

### A Prevalent Colt Trouble.

Each year many mares foal in the stable, and on dry feed; and each year throughout the country several foals are lost because of inability to rid their systems of the contents of the intestines at birth, known to veterinarians as the meconium. The dry food seems to provoke the trouble, but it is often seen where every precaution has been taken to avoid it. Undoubtedly, the most favorable condition for the mare is a free run on grass, but during the early season this is impracticable, so some precaution is necessary to keep her digestive organs in good condition, and at the same time make it easier for the foal's digestive tract to commence its normal functions after birth. The best way to prevent the trouble is by feeding the pregnant mare a considerable quantity of rather soft food, as scalded bran and oat chop. Raw roots, turnips, carrots or mangels, fed one or two daily, will be found beneficial.

The colt, under normal conditions, a few hours after birth, will begin to pass small, black, waxy lumps of material which are formed during the last months of fetal development, owing to the activity of the liver, which secretes bile, which mixes with mucus of the membranes of the intestines, the whole remaining in the small intestine until after the colt is foaled. A strong, healthy colt should relieve himself of all this material in about 24 hours after birth, at which time the feces evacuated should be of a yellowish color, indicating that the dam's milk is being digested and all intestinal obstruction has vanished.

The colt, suffering from inability to relieve himself of this putty-like substance, will be noticed in a humped position, with his tail elevated, and straining in an ineffectual endeavor to defecate. Repeated attempts are made, but nothing passes the bowels. The colt becomes restless and shows signs of colicky pains, which, if relief is not immediately found, become more severe, inflammation sets in, and death ensues.

The best preventive measure, as far as the mare and her colt is concerned, is to get it to