

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, Manager.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques 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.
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creased tariffs on raw materials. The public is generally willing to meet the honest debts of the nation, but with added burdens now accumulating there should be no one foolish enough to believe that the increase in tariff is going to give him an excellent chance to greatly increase his profits by fleecing consumers. All Canada must pull together. The fairest field with the fewest favors is a policy which will carry our country through to best advantage. Let the burden be equitably distributed on all, let us patronize home industry and let our home industries do their utmost to give every buyer of their goods a square deal.

The Place of the Farmer.

The Canadian Club, of London, were fortunate last week in entertaining to a mid-day luncheon Peter White, K. C., of Pembroke, Ont., widely known, particularly in Shorthorn breeding circles, and G. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, of Ottawa. Canadian Clubs now existing in many cities and towns can render no more valuable service to the country than by frequently familiarizing their membership with the problems of agriculture and their vital bearing on the welfare of the country. Mr. White, when introduced by President B. C. McCann, of the Club, discussed "The Farmer in the Economic Life of Canada" lucidly and with vigor. Considering the splendid resources, capable population, industrial machinery, very large transport and banking facilities of the country, something was lacking—viz., production. Its success commercially and industrially depends upon the prosperity of the tiller of the soil, who supplies the initial impulse of the whole machinery. Without the crops which he grows to "start things," all our activities and life itself would cease. The capital invested in agriculture was enormously greater than that of all other industries, being computed at some \$2,295,000,000; and the farmer was likewise the greatest purchaser of industrial products. In his service to the community materially—and service was the only right man had to sustenance—he classified the farmer first, then other productive industries on down to the professional orders sometimes de-

scribed as, in a sense, parasitic, but the interests of all were interwoven and should not be antagonistically arrayed. Through ample supplies of food and clothing economically available, non-costly labor would enable the country industrially to compete against other countries favorably conditioned in that respect, and by our exports exceeding imports we would pay our debts instead of borrowing as Canada has been doing. If the production of farm products is to be increased it must afford a sufficient reward to the farmer, who, observed Mr. White, is about the only producer who has practically nothing to say as to what he receives for his goods, concerning the essential cost of which so little is known. No manufacturer could stand it to be up against such conditions. In the cheese business, one of the most prosperous of Canadian farm industries, there were about five profits between the producer and the British consumer. The cost of distribution was beyond all reason. He cited the case of Alberta farmers shooting their hogs to rot on the prairie because at the prices paid it was cheaper than to feed them; and thousands of bushels of potatoes, badly needed in the Northwest, are going to waste in New Brunswick cellars. This problem of economical distribution must be worked out if Canada was to cope commercially with the rest of the world. He cited cases where co-operation had solved the problem, such as California oranges, Southern sweet potatoes, grapes in Michigan, the Golden Pippin apple in one of the States, and the Apple Growers' Associations in Ontario, but these it should be remembered are not quite identical with many of the scattered products of general farming. In the limited time at his disposal Mr. White did not undertake to do more than suggest the one direction of solution by co-operative effort, and concluded by reminding the men in manufacture and commerce that the farmer should be regarded as an ally entitled to fair consideration, and predicted great changes as to the status of the farmer and in business conditions following the present world upheaval.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

A sparrow which spends the winter in the southern portions of Canada is the Tree Sparrow. Like all our winter visitors it is somewhat erratic in its occurrence in any particular locality, appearing in much larger numbers in some winters than in others. This species resembles the Chipping Sparrow in having a chestnut crown, but is easily distinguished from that species by the dark blotch on its gray breast. The Tree Sparrow breeds in the north, from Labrador to Alaska, building its nest either on the ground among the mosses or in shrubs at an elevation of from one to four feet from the ground. It usually appears in southern Canada about the end of October or the beginning of November, and departs for its breeding grounds in April. In winter it ranges as far south as South Carolina, Kansas and Arizona. As the Tree Sparrow is with us only during the winter we do not hear much of its song, though sometimes in April I have heard the strong, clear and cheery refrain. This species renders a very important service to the farmer in the destruction of weed seeds, as this forms its main food during the winter months. It has a particular fondness for the seeds of Ragweed, Tobacco's Charters, Pigweed, Smartweed, and of such grasses as Quack and Foxtail.

The Savanna Sparrow is a common summer resident throughout Canada, but is comparatively little known, because even by those who pay some attention to birds it is often taken for a Song Sparrow. It resembles this latter species rather closely, but it has no distinct spot on the breast and has a yellow line over the eye. Its song is also entirely different from that of the Song Sparrow, being a high-pitched, grasshopper-like note "Zit-zit-a-zee-zrur." It is one of those bird-songs which are often passed over unnoticed until they are pointed out to the bird student, but which once noticed can ever after be easily recognized. The Savanna is a voracious creature, than most of our Sparrows, and is the greatest beetle destroyer of all the Sparrow family. As it is a bird of fields and open country it is brought in close contact with crops, and thus its beneficial influence is exerted with the best effort. The vegetable part of its food is made up very largely of weed seed, mostly the seeds of Foxtail and Quackgrass. On the other hand it does no damage to crops of any kind.

A large and handsome Sparrow, which in the southern portions of the Dominion is seen only during migrations, is the Fox Sparrow. This species may be recognized by its large size, reddish-brown tail and heavily-spotted breast. It is a bird of the woods, breeding in the dense forests of the north from Labrador to Alaska, and even during migrations, keeping mostly to wooded country. Its song is a beautiful, liquid melody. The main food of this species consists of the seeds of wild fruits, and it consequently

has little effect, either harmful or beneficial, upon agriculture.

The Swamp Sparrow is another species, which, on account of its living in swampy thickets, has very little influence upon agriculture. It is a common bird in suitable places in Southern and Central Ontario, and may be recognized by its dark chestnut crown, brownish-red wings and brownish sides.

The Field Sparrow has a rather limited range in Canada, occurring only very sparingly anywhere except in Southern Ontario, where it is, in some localities abundant. It resembles the Chipping Sparrow very closely, the main distinction between the two species being that the bill of the Field Sparrow is reddish, while that of the Chipping Sparrow is black. In its food habits also it much resembles this latter species, though it is not quite as beneficial because it eats more parasitic insects. These insects, which prey upon other insects, are one of the most important checks upon the increase of injurious forms, and consequently no bird can be given an "A 1" certificate economically if it eats an undue proportion of them. In the case of the Field Sparrow, the number of parasitic insects eaten is not large enough to balance the good it does by the destruction of injurious forms.

Another species which eats a large number of parasitic insects is the Nuttall's Sparrow of the Pacific Coast. This species also has a decided taste for grain. On the other hand it is a destroyer of injurious insects and of weed seed, so that as far as its food-habits are concerned it is "on the fence." Nuttall's Sparrow may be recognized by its white crown, bordered with black, and by the white stripe over the eye which reaches to the bill.

The White-crowned Sparrow breeds in the north, and is seen in Southern Canada only during the spring and fall migrations. It is distinguished by its white crown, bordered by black stripes, from all other Eastern sparrows and from the Nuttall's Sparrow by the fact that the white stripe over the eye does not reach the bill. During the spring migration it feeds largely on insects, and during the fall migration mostly on weed seed.

The White-throated Sparrow may be known, when in adult plumage, by its white throat, and in any plumage by the white (in young birds grayish-white) stripe down the middle of the crown and the yellow spot in front of the eye. This bird is a common breeder in Eastern Canada, living in woods and among brush-piles in clearings. It is a handsome bird, a delightful musician, and in its food-habits is entirely beneficial.

THE HORSE.

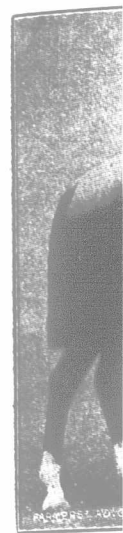
Prepare Idle Horses for Spring Work.

A large number of farm horses have spent the last few months in comparative or complete idleness and have subsisted on food that may have been sufficient to prevent noticeable loss of flesh, but not sufficient to keep up the vigor, nervous, muscular and respiratory that is necessary for working horses. As the result of idleness and little food the horses have lost nervous, muscular and respiratory tone. Horses in this condition when put to regular work cannot be expected to give satisfactory service. The change is too violent, and in most cases results in sore shoulders, and marked inability to continue to perform the labor expected, and if not worked very lightly and carefully for the first week or so will probably become absolutely unfit and unable to do any work.

The tone that has been lost cannot be restored suddenly. Violent changes of any nature, whether of food or labor, should be avoided. If this precaution be not taken the owner or teamster will be lucky if he avoids serious consequences. On account of the high price of both hay and oats many horses have been fed straw in lieu of hay, and so far as possible cheaper foods in lieu of oats. But, notwithstanding high prices, most owners realize that it will be necessary to feed the staple horse foods, viz., hay and oats, in reasonable quantities to their horses when working. In order to avoid danger of digestive trouble the change in food should be made gradually. It is a noticeable fact that the digestive system of any animal becomes accustomed to digesting certain kinds of food, and if sudden changes be made to food of other kinds there is liable to be serious trouble. While this applies to animals of all classes it is particularly marked in the horse. Hence, the change should be gradual. The horse that has been accustomed to a full ration of straw should be given a little less straw and a little hay the first day, still less straw and a little more hay the second day, and this gradual change continued until in a week or ten days a full ration of hay may be given with safety. The same principles apply to the grain ration.

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