

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 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.
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.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, space. 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 arrears must be made as required by law.
5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears 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, \$1.00 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.

cieties pondered the matter at their annual meetings last February and all were in favor of such exhibition, but all emphasized the fact that it should be "national." The National Record Board, in annual meeting in Toronto last May, passed a resolution favoring this kind of show, and nominated a committee to bring the matter before the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. The delegation appointed laid plans before the Minister early in June, and asked that a commission be appointed to interview the various agricultural authorities in each province regarding the project. The Minister was heartily in accord with the idea, and urged the necessity of obtaining the co-operation of all the agricultural associations in the Dominion. While this was in progress the promoters of the new show, to be established in Toronto, were busy completing arrangements for the biggest winter exhibition in Canada, and to which they gave the name "National." They engaged one of the best-known and capable men available to manage such a show, and doubtless the exhibition will be off to a good start next week and will continue to grow.

But with all this accomplished there are those who hesitate to call the exhibition the real national show which they had pictured in their minds, with the undivided support of stockmen and agriculturists from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the United States border to the northernmost cultivated latitudes. In the October 1st issue of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, Manitoba, an editorial stated the case thus: "At this time it is scarcely possible to outline the attitude of stockmen of the Western Provinces towards this national show. Naturally they are willing to support anything that will help the live-stock industry. It would seem, however, that they had little to say in the selection of a place to hold the show. Likewise they have not been largely represented in the maturing of plans. If stockmen in the

East are unanimous on Toronto as the regular place for holding the show, no doubt that is where it will be held, and Western stockmen will do nothing to mar its success."

Following this in the issue of October 22nd, our western contemporary, in an article on the same subject, published an extract from a letter from one closely connected with the live-stock work in Canada, in which he said under date of October 9th, in reply to a letter from the editor, "You evidently have in mind the National Live-Stock Show which breeders have asked the Dominion Department of Agriculture to support. It has not yet taken definite form. The Minister appointed a commission to look over the ground and get the opinion of the breeders of Canada. Some meetings for this purpose were held in Western Canada this past summer. As to the selection of a place for the show nothing has been done. The whole matter is in the hands of the Live-Stock Commissioner."

From this it would seem that the Department is gradually working out the details of what they term a National Show, and through ample investigation and with the co-operation of live-stock men they should succeed.

Since the subject is still open, it might be well to bring out a few new phases which might aid to a successful solution of the perplexing problem. Toronto has started an exhibition, and situated as is that city in the heart of Ontario's live-stock belt, representing some of the best pure-bred stock in America, and, in large numbers, it would seem that she could not help having at least a share of the exhibition. The farther eastern provinces have never been contenders as a place to hold the show, so the West is the big problem. There is good stock in the East, but the plea has always been to hold the show at a central large city. Eastern exhibitors would rather come to Toronto than go farther west and so would Ontario breeders, but the West would not care to go east of Toronto, and even seem to draw the line on going that far. The western live-stock industry is a big factor to be reckoned with in locating the show. The co-operation of breeders from the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia is just as important as the co-operation of the breeders of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. All must be pleased, and all must put their shoulders to the wheel and push together.

It has been suggested that no one show could cover all Canada with nearly 4,000 miles from coast to coast. Yet an International at Chicago covers the United States, and draws from Canada East and West. The one thing necessary is unanimity of opinion with no loop-holes for dissatisfaction. With the suggestion that no one exhibition could cover Canada came the idea that it should be divided into two, one for the East and one for the West. This would mean that each exhibition would be only half-national. The idea is to have a show, a final reckoning place, the highest court of appeal, where all meet on common ground. Why not hold the exhibition alternately in the East and West and as central as possible? It might be that conditions for a time would favor two shows in Ontario to one in the West, say at Winnipeg. There seems to be little doubt in any Easterner's mind but that Toronto should get, at least, a share of the National Show fame, and Western breeders favor Winnipeg. The old English Royal moves from place to place yearly, an attempt to locate it permanently at one center having failed, and no more satisfactory live-stock show is held in the world. Of course winter weather conditions make it necessary that comfortable buildings be erected in this country for a live-stock show. The building problem precludes moving from place to place, but if the Winnipeg Industrial could, with the live-stock interests of the West, get up suitable buildings on their show grounds—buildings which could be used at the summer show as well as for the winter fair, and Toronto's already fine assortment were added to as required by both fall and winter exhibitions, there seem to be few good reasons why such could not be worked out. The greatest objection to taking pure-bred stock to Winnipeg would be the risk involved, due to the cold climate, and,

of course, expenses of operating would be greater. This alternating may not be feasible, but no one seems as yet to have hit upon the real thing to suit all concerned. Western advices say that the stockmen of those districts will do nothing to "mar" the Toronto show. We want them to do all they can to help a national show, and to be truly National there can be no East nor West, but one united, Dominion-wide live-stock force determined that by undivided support the show must be pushed to an unqualified success. A beginning has been made. Time will disclose the developments in store.

Nature's Dairy.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

The only one of the valuable fur-bearers which is still fairly common in the settled parts of the country is the mink. This animal, which belongs to the weasel family, is eminently able to look after itself. It has many ways of escape. If it is near the water it plunges in and swims beneath the surface as easily as a muskrat or otter. If it is in the woods it can climb a tree as readily as a squirrel, or it can disappear with lightning rapidity beneath an old root. Or wherever it happens to be it can find some hole or crevice into which it can instantly wriggle its sinuous, snake-like body. And as a last resort it can fight, and it does this with an agility and ferocity which renders it a formidable antagonist to many animals much superior to itself in size.

The mink, in spite of its comparatively short legs, can run with incredible swiftness, and has a habit of disappearing suddenly from view and re-appearing in a moment at a distance and in a location where you least expect it.

This mammal is neither nocturnal nor diurnal, but hunts either day or night whenever it is hungry, and after a full meal sleeps until it is hungry again.

In the matter of food the mink has a wide range. It will hunt frogs along the borders of streams, catch fish in lakes and rivers, dig up grubs, beetles and earthworms from soft soil or out of rotten logs and stumps, and catch hares, mice and ground-hunting birds.

The young are born in April in a nest which the mother makes in a hole in the rocks or in a hollow log. They stay with the mother until cold weather, and learn to hunt frogs and young birds. In the fall they take longer hunting trips, and finally go off on their own account altogether.

Of the habits of the mink in winter, Stone and Cram say, "In winter, when still waters are frozen, they haunt open rapids and warm springs in the woods, or finding entrance beneath the ice of a closed brook, make extended excursions along the dim buried channel, alternately running beneath the ice and along the brook's border where the falling away of the water has left a narrow strip of unfrozen turf beneath the ice and snow. Here they catch small fish and meadow mice, or, tracing the brook's course down to the wider reaches of the river, find larger fish and muskrats to try their strength upon. Water, however, is not essential to the mink's happiness at any season, for they can hunt rabbits all winter long in the snow as successfully as the sable or fisher."

All those birds which are summer residents with us have now left, even the robin and the bluebird which linger longer with us than most species. Of the departure of the bluebird the poet—ornithologist Wilson most truly sings:

"When all the gay scenes of the summer are o'er,
And autumn slow enters, so silent and fallow,
And millions of warblers, that charmed us before,
Have fled in the train of the sun-seeking swallow,

The bluebird forsaken, yet true to his home,
Still lingers and looks for a milder to-morrow
Till forced by the horrors of winter to roam,
He sings his adieu in a lone note of sorrow."

In the place of the summer birds we now look forward to what this season may bring forth in the way of winter residents and winter visitors. The first of the winter birds has already arrived, this year the pine siskin being the first arrival that I have noticed.

The pine siskin is a little finch about four and three-quarters inches in length, continuously streaked above with dusky and flaxen color, and whitish streaked with dusky color beneath. In high plumage the wings, tail and rump are strongly tinged with yellow. The bill is long for a finch, and very acute.

This species breeds in Nova Scotia, Northern New Brunswick, Eastern Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, but is usually only a winter visitor or a winter resident in Southern New Brunswick, Western Quebec, Central and Southern Ontario, and Southern Manitoba. In 1905, however, one of those peculiar events which render the study birds so particularly fascinating occurred. The siskin bred quite