

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1878.

VOL. XXXIII.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., MARCH 1, 1898.

No. 449.

EDITORIAL.

More Barn Plans.

We are pleased to learn from a number of our correspondents that the barn plans and descriptions given in late numbers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE are being appreciated as helpful. It has been remarked by one or two contributors that some of the designs have been on a too elaborate scale for the average farmer to follow. We are able in this issue, however, to offer what should suit the purse and needs of stock farmers down to the tiller of fifty acres. The three plans each have features worthy of commendation and imitation. Good features from these and others previously published can be chosen according to the judgment of the reader, based on his own purposes and conditions.

Seed Time is Coming.

It goes without saying that between the harvest of one year and the seeding time of the next every thoughtful farmer decides to make some changes in his methods. The final end of all farming operations is "the return," and where one sees a chance to increase this without too great an outlay of effort or expense, he is very sure to follow it. There are several reasons why changes in one's system are necessary, and among these are the varying demands for different crops, the changing of rotation to increase fertility and cleanliness of the soil, and such other variations as the lessons of experience and scientific insight dictate. A few years ago barley sold at a price that made it the best paying crop on all farms suitable for growing it; but as that is no longer the case, this crop is grown for little else than for the feeding of stock, for which purpose it is highly prized. To-day wheat promises to maintain at a paying figure, hence the return to it on many farms. The most general change, however—one which is doing much to improve the financial condition of the individual and the nation—is in the direction of growing stock-feeding crops and feeding them on the farms, such as corn for dairy cows. It is being found by actual experience what has been preached in our columns for years, that as much of the product of the farm as possible should be converted into a fine food product, such as dairy produce, meat or live stock. It is being observed that impoverished farms cannot be made to yield a profit. With these changes in conditions and greater enlightenment comes the yearly introduction of new and better varieties of grains, grasses, and other crops. While it is not wise to send for a bag or more of every new sort said to be a "world beater," it is well to observe what is being learned from the repeated experience of good farmers and those who are in a position to judge between the best and medium varieties, the quantities of seed per acre, and the best cultivation before and after the sowing. This involves a consideration of how a person's rotation, if he follows one, can be improved. It is not only necessary to get the most good from the farm this year and the next, but the seasons which are to follow are just as much to be considered. In this issue our Farm Department is replete with lessons along the line of seeding operations, which are worthy of very careful perusal and consideration. By the kindness of numerous contributors, we are able to make this number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of more than ordinary value, particularly at this season. We cannot refrain from quoting the words of an old reader that "a farmer who cannot get more than the price of his year's subscription from one or two such numbers as this one is either an extraordinarily good farmer or else singularly obtuse." The results of dearly-bought experience can teach more to those who are teachable than all the theorizing that can be penned. Useful points may have been overlooked, and no

doubt there are others in these letters which will be taken exception to, and next issue will be a good one for further discussion. Matter reaching us by March 9th or 10th will be in plenty of time for the 15th number.

Our Live Stock Associations.

The annual meetings of the Stock Breeders' Associations held last month in Toronto and Winnipeg were characterized by a confident and hopeful spirit which augurs well for the future of the business. The attendance of breeders was much larger than usual, and all seemed to feel the influence of the improved times causing an active demand for pure-bred stock and better prices. The registration of stock has increased very largely during the last year, and the staff of registrars are being worked to full capacity. Breeders should keep their stock recorded well up to date, and the high standard of Canadian Herd and Stud Books maintained in its integrity. The proposed amalgamation of the Shorthorn Herd Book of the Maritime Provinces with the Dominion Herd Book is a very desirable consummation, and is creditable to the judgment of all concerned. The steps taken towards uniting the Ayrshire Herd Books of Ontario and Quebec, and also that of the Maritime Provinces, in one Dominion Record are also commendable, and we hope will end in an agreement satisfactory to all parties. As was expected, the suggested amalgamation of the Canadian with the United States Clydesdale Stud Book met with no approval. The offering of special prizes at leading exhibitions in each province for the best animals and herds owned in the respective provinces is a wise and judicious way of disposing of any portion of the surplus funds accumulating, and one which well serves to enhance the interest taken in the affairs of the Associations, and will be duly appreciated by exhibitors. The reduction of the membership fees is a proper movement, thus minimizing the tax upon the membership to the actual necessary expense of running the affairs of the Association properly. The people who have contributed to the accumulation of the funds on hand are certainly entitled to share in the distribution of any surplus which may have accrued.

The Manitoba and Northwest Association meetings were particularly interesting, being largely attended by the foremost breeders and farmers of the country—men whose intelligence and enthusiasm was evidenced by the excellent papers and addresses given, and the practical discussion of many important subjects. A proper move was made at the latter gatherings to secure a similar freight rates classification for pure-bred stock on the railways as prevails in Ontario and the East, which will put the live stock interests on a better basis, enabling farmers generally to secure better stock for the improvement of their herds.

That a great awakening has come upon the people of this continent in regard to the need of more and better stock is certain, and it will require all that the breeders can raise to meet the demand. The ambition of every breeder should be to produce a better class of stock than he has ever done before, and to feed and care for it in such a manner as to develop its best possibilities and have it at all times in condition to sell to advantage. This course will be found to prove most profitable to the breeder and satisfactory to the buyer. There is an immense field on this continent waiting to be stocked, and many millions may be added to the value of the stock by judicious breeding and management. Let every man, to the extent of his ability, do his duty in the effort to elevate the standard of our stock and to develop the resources of this great country, which is a heritage of which we may well be proud.

Those Reported Glanders Cases.

Some time ago reports reached the FARMER'S ADVOCATE that a number of livery stable horses were affected with glanders in a town not far from Toronto. A sick horse had been noticed on the streets of the latter place, apparently in the chronic stage of glanders. On being destroyed, a post-mortem was held by two veterinarians, who found the evidences of a long-standing case of the disease. This animal was subsequently traced to the livery referred to. The attention of both Dominion and Provincial authorities was called to the matter and the ADVOCATE sent members of its staff to investigate. It was found that a horse affected with acute glanders was killed some four or five miles distant from the place referred to last May, and in an adjoining village there were a number of cases of what was reported to be nasal gleet. The livery stable horses were seen, but beyond being low in condition there seemed to be nothing serious ailing them. At the request of the local authorities, Prof. Sweetapple, of the Ontario Veterinary College staff, also visited the place, and in company with a local veterinary surgeon made a physical examination (taking temperatures, but not applying the mallein test for glanders) of the eleven horses in the stable. He reports no evidence of glanders, nor any symptoms indicating any similar trouble. There the matter rests for the present. Glanders has long been regarded as one of the most serious of animal diseases, and is included in the Dominion Contagious Diseases Act, so that it comes under the jurisdiction of the Chief Veterinary Inspector, Dr. McEachran, and his staff. As we previously pointed out, there is an Ontario statute under which glanders may be dealt with, but the Provincial authorities do not assume direct responsibility, provision being made whereby cases may be dealt with by a justice of the peace upon information laid by any individual, the question of compensation being left with the municipality, which is certainly only a half-hearted plan of trying to deal with such matters. The Province of Manitoba, as in other matters, has "taken the bull by the horns," so to speak, and appointed a veterinary inspection staff of its own, who act regardless of the Dominion inspector, and notwithstanding the reassuring statements of the latter before the Committee on Agriculture at the 1897 session of Parliament at Ottawa, to the effect that Canada was nearly rid of the trouble, the Manitoba authorities had actually slaughtered 40 glandered horses. This speaks volumes for the knowledge and efficiency of the Dominion Veterinary Department! Or else, on the other hand, the Manitoba Veterinary Department has been perpetrating an outrage upon horse owners, which is hardly likely. When anything really serious crops up in any of the Provinces, there should be effective machinery to deal promptly and vigorously with it. There should be no open question as to jurisdiction, and no shirking responsibility. When reports are made a proper investigation should at once take place, and, if need be, the necessary action taken to clean out the trouble. It is the greatest folly to try to gloss over or cover up animal diseases if they exist. The authorities, having had their attention thus pointedly directed to these matters, should see that proper plans are devised, and that can doubtless be done without any needless multiplication of fat-salaried officials to thrive on "scares," and with whom the taxpayer is already burdened. We trust the Dominion Minister of Agriculture will prove himself equal to the task.

Appreciation.

I have taken the FARMER'S ADVOCATE since Jan. 1st, 1895. Have preserved all the copies, and find it a valuable paper.
E. A. KIPP.
Chilliwack, B. C.