

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MANITOBA AND N.-W. T.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

WALTER E. GUNN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

W. J. BLACK, B. S. A., AND A. G. HOPKINS, D. V. M., B. S. A., EDITORS.
M. D. GRIDERS, CALGARY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

OFFICES:

IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA.

EASTERN OFFICE:

CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Wednesday
(52 issues per year).

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most
profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen,
gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Western Canada.

2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States
England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00
when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.

3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 15 cents per line,
agate. Contract rates furnished on application.

4. THE 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 respon-
sible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be
discontinued.

6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, 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.

9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change
of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
A couple of weeks necessarily elapse before the change can be
made, and before the first copy of The Farmer's Advocate will
reach any new subscriber. All subscriptions commence with the
date of the first copy received.

11. 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
ADVOCATE, 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.

12. 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),
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

green hillocks, "the tents of the camps of green,"
and a solitary shaft which has arisen to mark the
spot where these thousands of nameless ones fell,
"to lift one hero into fame." Can humanity, in
these dawning years of the twentieth century,
hesitate over the question as to whether the prize
be worth the terrible cost? It would seem, in-
deed, high time that the teaching of the Nazarene,
whose coming angels heralded with the song,
"Peace on earth, good-will to men," should sink
more deeply into the hearts of those who dare to
take His name upon their tongues, to the exclusion
of this fierce lust of fight, worthy only of the
naked savage or the fierce beast of the pathless
jungle.

Stocking Up.

Although the present is always the best time
to institute reforms, the present we are in just
this month is particularly the best time of the
year to buy new breeding stock. The stock that
is matured now displays all its virtues and de-
fects, so that one can tell just what he is getting,
and need not be gulled. Also, by buying now
the birds become accustomed to their new sur-
roundings before the season for laying hatching
eggs begins. The profits from the poultry yard
where good stock are kept and intelligent manage-
ment prevails are sufficient now to warrant more
attention being given to the class of stock on
hand. For farm poultry, nothing beats a special-
purpose strain of a general-purpose breed: good-
laying Rocks, Wyandottes or Orpingtons, for in-
stance, are the ideal poultry for the ordinary
farmer who sells a few eggs and markets or uses
upon his table his surplus stock. For those who
want eggs, and nothing else, strains of some other
breeds might suit better, but just now let it be
remembered is the time for most people to buy
some breeding stock, and not wait until spring
and take a long chance on a setting of eggs.

Horses.

When we see a heavy lorry horse on the hard
city streets that has gone wrong in his pins, a
short, straight pastern is invariably one of his
characteristics. Try to breed for length and ob-
liquity of pasterns.

* * *

Shelter, ground oats and good hay for the
youngsters now. Keep them gaining, they are
worth while.

* * *

Cut oat sheaves may be a more expensive
fodder than most feeders are aware of, but, with
this, ground oats, bran and good hay, the horse
that will not lay on flesh when at easy work and
with proper care, must have something the mat-
ter with him inside. Find out how his back
teeth are, and he may need a prescription from
the veterinarian.

* * *

This is the season of scratches, mud, heating
foods, unclean stables, etc., which help to cause
the trouble which, if not promptly attended to,
may develop into grease, canker, or mud fever.

* * *

In treating scratches, try to keep the part dry,
do not wash any oftener than necessary, and ap-
ply lard, vaseline or sweet oil to keep the parts
soft. In some cases, it may be necessary to use
an ointment composed of oxide of zinc, one part
to eight of lard.

The Fast Walker.

The fast-walking horse, all other things being
equal, is the most profitable horse for the farm-
er. There is too little attention paid to the
walk in selecting a sire, and just as little when
choosing a brood mare. A team of horses with
a clean step and a clever gait will cover nearly
fifty per cent. more ground in a day than a slow
pair. This in comparison means considerable
economy in time, and in money as well, when ex-
pensive hired help has to be used for driving.

When breaking the young colt to harness it is
very important that he should be hitched by the
side of a fast walker of good manners. By being
induced to step out for some time after first
leading to the collar, the young horse may be to
a great extent led to acquire a desirable gait.
Slow walking, like other objections to some
horses, is hereditary, and when a colt is found
possessed of a very slow gait, the result of bad
breeding, the greatest success cannot be expected
from careful training. In the same manner too
the colt that has been bred to walk may be in-
jured by being broken to harness alongside a slow
walker.

Country People Should Ride.

At this time of year, anyone living near our
larger towns can see, every Saturday afternoon,
and probably at other times, residents of the
city taking a horseback ride into the country, and
certain it is that this is one of the most en-
joyable pastimes one can indulge in. In the Old
Country, one of the chief pleasures of farm life
is that of riding, but in Canada the habit does
not seem to grow upon the country people, and
only the well-to-do in towns can afford it. Apart
from the pleasure to be taken out of riding, there
are many reasons why it should be practiced
more extensively by those who breed and care for
horses. It would tend to make better horsemen
and horsewomen, to insure the further popularity
of a saddle type of horses, give attractiveness
and variety to country life, save vehicles, etc.
That there is a demand for such outdoor recrea-
tion was evidenced by the wild rush a few years
ago for bicycles, even by country people, but that
fad did not suit the demand, and very soon we
may expect to see the popular mind again search-
ing for some new means of recreation, and why
not riding? What might not the good effects
have been if, instead of investing in wheels a few
years ago, young people had developed a fad for
horseback riding, and had provided a saddle or
two on every farm. It is a pleasurable pastime
that is due the youth of the farms by virtue of
their positions in life, and everyone would be
greatly pleased to see so healthful a recreation
become more popular.

The Glass Just Suits.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":
Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of
reading glass this a.m. for which I thank you
very much. It is very fine and I wish the
"Farmer's Advocate" a wider circulation.

Yours very truly,

Letbridge, Oct. 20th. W. B. BURNETTE.

Stock.

Cross-breeding.

Dr. A. S. Alexander, the well-known authority
on breeding, has the following to say on that
very timely subject, cross-breeding, in the Live-
stock Report:

It is quite true that the amalgamation of two
distinct breeds may result in progeny superior in
some respects or another to the characteristic
type or conformation of either pure-bred parent.
This is seen in the first cross, but should we con-
tinue the experiment improvement would cease
and retrogression commence. This would surely
take place, and rapidly, were we to use the cross-
bred bull for breeding purposes. The reason for
this is that the cross-bred animal, while possess-
ing an equal amount of the blood of each parent,
possesses no surplus of either blood. There is no
established prepotency in such an animal. Two
distinct prepotencies have merged into one in his
manufacture, and the joint prepotency is a
diluted or mixed one, hence weak compared with
that of a pure-bred animal. It is as if two
streams of water of about equal strength and
speed of current were to meet from opposite direc-
tions. The one current would oppose that of the
other. The result would be a war between the
two. The stronger would conquer, but even then
the speed of the current would be greatly dimini-
shed. So, in breeding, two opposite currents
of blood of equal strength are apt to oppose each
other, or so perfectly blend together that the
identity of each is lost, and the strength of each
destroyed.

Cross-breeding has been tried with all breeds
and kinds of animals. Such breeding was at first
necessary, but as second crosses proved unsuit-
able, prepotency on one side of the equation had
to be strengthened by repeated use of one kind of
blood, and gradually that one type became pre-
dominant. This is well illustrated in the history
of the Poland-China breed of swine. Several
breeds were crossed in the early efforts to obtain
a new breed. By selection, the best animals of
such crosses were set aside or retained for breed-
ing purposes, but gradually, one blood being
most used, became most prominent, and breed
prepotency was established, so that the Poland-
China repeats its characteristics with certainty
within the confines of its own blood, and stamps
them also upon swine of less prepotency if mated
therewith. The mating of a pure-bred Shorthorn
or Hereford bull with a native cow of any coun-
try is true crossing. The native cow, although
a scrub, represents a pure breed possessed of
strong breed prepotency. At first, the progeny
of such a cross may show equal traces of each
parent. Such progeny used on the male side for
perpetuation of its kind would fail, being a
mongrel, and not possessed of a marked pre-
potency. Improvement starting with such a
cross has been continued by repeated use of the
pure blood first used. In other words, many suc-
cessive top-crosses of Shorthorn or Hereford
blood have finally obliterated every trace of the
prepotency of the native animal, and the result-
ant progeny has been, to all intents and pur-
poses, pure-bred.

For the reasons stated, cross-breeding among
pure breeds is a ruinous process and foolish, un-
less for the production of non-breeding animals.
It is perfectly legitimate in the attempt to secure
fattening animals of supreme excellence and qual-
ity. We see this in the mating of white Short-
horn bulls with black polled cows. The result-
ant cross is known as a "blue-gray," and such
cattle are celebrated for their fine beefing capa-
bilities and superior feeding form. Nobody that
we have heard of has, however, sought to estab-
lish a breed of blue-grays possessed of breed pre-
potency, nor would it probably be possible to
achieve such an object in breeding. Again, it is
a common practice among sheepmen in Great
Britain to cross-breed pure breeds of sheep to
provide superior fattening animals. The popular
crosses are that between the Cheviot ram and the
Border Leicester ewe, or the Cheviot ram and the
Black-faced ewe, or vice versa in each in-
stance. The resultant "half-bred" sheep, or
"gray-faces," are largely used, but not for breed-
ing purposes, unless to clinch one side of the
equation by superimposing another top-cross of
the blood of the sire originally used. Such re-
peated use of the same blood on the sire's side
is not cross-breeding, but grading up, and that
is what we are doing all over the country in
seeking to improve our farm animals. It is
work that should be intelligently done. In horse-
breeding, all sorts of breeds and alloys have been
made by the use of one-bred sires. Had such at-
tempts been intelligently carried out, we would
have a breed of horses, made up of pure-bred horses in
blood, and of pure-bred sires have long
ago. As it is, breeders have departed from
stock breeding, and have
crossed with the result that