

## 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, handomely 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, agate. 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.
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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.

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cream for direct consumption. Nothing is more certain than that any noticeable increase in milk production beyond proportionate increase in home consumption would reduce prices and curtail profits. If then, prices are already too low, as stated above, how will the producer's interest be served by organized effort to increase the number of cows and enlarge production? Cheese factories are already paying every cent they can pay for milk, under present market conditions. The only hope of substantially increased prices for cheese milk is a relative decrease in total milk production as compared to demand. Of course, from the standpoint of men having capital invested in butter and cheese factories, the case has a somewhat different aspect, but even they could have nothing to gain in the end by encouraging farmers to enlarge milk production at unprofitable prices. We are not in the least alarmed by jeremiads about decreasing agricultural production. Half the time production is not really decreasing after all, but merely seems to be because rapidly enlarging home consumption absorbs a big share of what was formerly a surplus for export. Dairy Commissioner J. A. Ruddick, points out that the increase of two and a half million in population has helped to augment Canadian consumption of butter, cheese, milk, ice cream, etc., by thirty to forty million dollars' worth a year. He believes that, notwithstanding our declining exports, milk production in Canada has increased as much during the past decade as in any other ten-year period.

Anyway the situation is satisfactory from producers' point of view, and we hope will remain so. With efforts to improve quality and increase production per cow, we have every sympathy for that spells sound progress. With wholesale efforts to increase the number of cows we have no sympathy at all. Let supply and demand settle that. Simply and demand always have a way of working things out with better advantage to all parties concerned than could be effected by any system of human conception. Look to quality and individual profits. Let statistics take care of themselves.

## YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

Have you sent us your renewal subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine"?

Our subscribers are our best circulation getters. They can conscientiously recommend it to others, feeling that \$1.50 cannot be invested in any other manner that will give as much pleasure and profit. The larger our circulation becomes, the better paper we can give our readers.

Old subscribers sending us two NEW names and \$3.00 may have their own subscription advanced twelve months; or, for your own renewal and one NEW name, we will accept \$2.50. In either case we expect the new subscriber to pay the regular subscription price of \$1.50.

New subscribers will receive a copy of the 1912 Christmas Number complimentary.

## Dean's Dairy Drama.

Prof. H. H. Dean, of the Ontario Agricultural College, is original. Seldom a meeting of the Dairymen's Association passes without some startling new line of thought propounded by the redoubtable professor. Always it is entertaining, and often suggestive. At the recent Dairymen's Convention in Woodstock, he went, we should judge, about the whole length of his fertile imagination. He said if he were a millionaire, instead of a college professor, he would undertake to spread agricultural and dairy knowledge by employing, as agencies the moving picture show and the drama. Personally he would prefer the drama, where real persons, cows, appliances and products with suitable stage equipment "and all the necessary accessories of music, colored lights, comfortable seats, etc., which go to make strong impressions," would be utilized to teach agricultural and dairy lessons.

He then went on to detail the characters, from the farmer and his hired man who milk the cows to the English or Scotch consumer, and also the scenes, which ranged from the Canadian farm to the retailer's shop and the consumer's home. It was all very entrancing—thrilling. It made such a vivid impression on the audience that the official stenographer already has a play worked up in his mind.

One thing sure, there should be no difficulty in obtaining local color. The stage manager could secure cows with nearly all the shades of the rainbow, varying the breed to suit the district, thus appealing to local patriotism. Nor need he lack dramatic incident. An obstreperous brindle swishing her tail across the milker's face would be a real hair-raiser, to say nothing of the opportunity for dialogue. If anything more sensational were required it might be provided by a scene showing someone, preferably a minister, teaching a young calf to drink. The milkmaid of course would be requisitioned to supply romance, and altogether the first act should pass off quite successfully.

Just how the playwright would make out with the next two acts we are not quite so clear. There is nothing especially dramatic about a stack of boxed cheese, while in the consumer's home a good deal of dialogue would be necessary to keep things interesting. There is not much romance, tragedy or humor in a polite request to "pass the cheese."

The admission fee to this enthralling play was not settled by the author of the idea. It would be distinctly "infra dig." to travel about the country begging attendance, and we are not sure how much people would be willing to pay. Then again, we are not sure just how much effect the "strong impressions" would have in persuading people to test their cows and provide summer silage. Nor are we clear how the desired lessons could be enforced. But, no doubt, Prof. Dean and Mr. Cox will work all these points out.

## Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

In the study of nature, the keeping of careful notes is of the utmost importance. An observation should not be regarded as complete until it is recorded in permanent form, and in such a way as to be readily accessible when needed.

In the field a writing-pad and a pencil should be carried, and notes made on the spot. A very good and cheap pad is Hinsdill's Scratch Book, No. 4020. From the field pad the notes may be transferred to two books. The first book may be termed the "journal," and in it general nature notes should be written from day to day. This "journal" will prove very interesting reading to its author in after years, and will be found to contain many observations which have completely passed from the memory. This style of recording notes would do very well as the only form of record, if it were not for the fact that after a few years the notes in it cannot readily be found when needed. Therefore, in the main line or lines of observation, a loose-leaf "ledger" should be kept. In this "ledger" a page should be devoted to each species, and the pages arranged according to the classification used. Thus in the "ledger" for bird notes, the first pages would deal with the grebes and loons, and the last with the thrushes. As a further aid in quickly locating notes little tabs, bearing the names of the families as (Fringillidae—the finch family) may be attached to the sheets on which the notes on each family begin, so that the tabs project. By using the loose-leaf system any number of pages may be added in any place required, and the notes are always in order. Thin type-writer paper makes the best leaves for the "ledger."

There is another little book which is very useful in bird study, and that is a monthly time-book. In this the bird's name is entered in the "name column", and the number seen each day entered under the date. Thus what is called a "migration record" is kept, which will show when the species first appeared, its commonness and the date of its departure. When a bird becomes common the letter "C" may be entered under the date, and "ditto" marks put under each succeeding day. If a flock too large to count the individuals composing it is seen, it may be recorded by the letter "F". If a bird is not common, but a good many individuals are seen on a certain day, then an "S" under the date will record the fact that several were seen on that day.

In observing birds a good field glass is a necessity. The best glasses are the prism binoculars or monoculars, but they are rather expensive. A field glass should be at least "eight-power." A telescope, while somewhat inconvenient to use, is often quite effective, and small ones are comparatively cheap.

To obtain near views of birds it is necessary to learn to do two things—to keep still and to "call." The great majority of small birds may be "called" by making a squeaking noise with the lips, much as one calls a dog. The "call" can often be improved by bringing the back of the hand against the lips while the squeak is being made.

There are several books which are useful for identifying birds in the field. Probably the easiest one to use is the "Color Key to North American Birds" by Chapman & Reid, in which the birds are divided into classes according to their color, and which contains small illustrations in color of all North American birds.

There is one point, in connection with bird study, which cannot be impressed too strongly upon the beginner in this fascinating pursuit, and that is to be absolutely sure of the identification of a bird before recording it. Far better no record than a doubtful one. Guess work has no place in natural science.

## Government Assistance in Drainage

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your advocacy for the removal of the duty on ditching machinery should have the support of every one interested in the agricultural progress and developments of our province, and I sincerely hope that our Dominion Government may take immediate action and aid the farmer by allowing drainage machinery to enter duty free.

Even with its removal the cost of a machine is almost out of reach of the ordinary farmer, viz., \$1,400 to three times this amount at the factory on the other side. This being the case our Provincial Government might come to the help of the farmer, and assist him in some practical way to get his land drained by machinery, as it is next to impossible, in the great majority of cases, to get it done by hand.

As governments and corporations can usually borrow capital more cheaply than individuals, arrangements might be made whereby some capable persons, in certain districts, could be furnished with a suitable machine by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, they making all ar-