

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 or 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, 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 arrearages must be made as required by law.

5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearages 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 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.

judges show that every feature of farming that goes to make operations thorough, up-to-date, and practical, were taken into consideration.

As far back as 1867, Quebec held good-farms competitions under the auspices of the Provincial agricultural societies. Similar features have characterized the work of the Provincial Department of Agriculture every year since 1890, under the agricultural-merit competitions, in which the provisions stipulate that awards go to the best-kept farms. In fact, Quebec has perhaps the most thoroughgoing competition on the continent. It does not end with an examination of the farms and a placing of awards. No expense is spared in preparing an attractive and educational report outlining every detail.

Manitoba is doing a laudable work in her "good-farming" competitions, but it is not necessary to represent that agriculture has developed all these years in Canada without such means being adopted in other Provinces to show farmers that it pays to be systematic and thorough in general farm work.

Rats in the West.

Rumor says that Southern Manitoba has an invasion of rats—common gray rats. Thus, another argument of Western land-dealers is blasted. No longer can freedom from this pest be urged as a reason why farmers in Eastern Canada should leave their comfortable homes and go to the wind-swept prairies of the West.

However, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Western Province has been aroused to a promise of immediate action, with a view to extermination of the rodents. A careful survey of the situation reveals the fact that farmers are using traps, and also placing "rough on rats," strychnine, and other poisons. But the Deputy Minister has concluded that the former will not avail, because in a short time the rats will be come cunning, and refuse to be trapped. Poisons, he says, for promiscuous use, are dangerous. But the Deputy's knowledge of agriculture furnishes information that in Germany and France a virus

has been inoculated into rats, thus generating a disease similar to typhoid fever, and playing havoc among the pests. Reports say he has written to Germany for particulars.

Why not try Ontario's old reliable common cats? Perhaps the Manitoban official could profit by importing a few, and establishing a breeding station.

Mystifying Rules.

That only such matters as are designed for the deliberation of the officers of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada should be addressed to the secretary of that body, but that all correspondence requesting information, application forms, transfer blanks, etc., should be addressed to the Accountant, National Live-stock Records, Ottawa, is the important point of Mr. Sangster's letter, published elsewhere in this issue. We are of opinion that a good many readers will be relieved to have the matter thus distinctly stated. So far, so good.

Proceeding, Mr. Sangster replies, in passing, to our remark to the effect that the directorate of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada has been "making an unenviable record in the incubation of new and mystifying rules and regulations," arguing that all these were badly needed and beneficial. Without debating this point, we beg to submit that the comparatively brief notice that has been given in bringing them severally into effect, and more especially the obscure and ambiguous phrasing of some of them, amply justify the characterization applied. Not to expand the point, let us cite, for the purpose of illustration, this one, quoted from the back of the secretary's official letterhead:

"The following are admitted to registry:

"IMPORTED ANIMALS.—Stallions and mares recorded and bearing registration numbers in the Clydesdale Studbook of Great Britain and Ireland, whose sires and dams, together with their sires and dams, are also recorded and bear registration numbers in said Studbook, provided that the breeding of such sires and dams, if already recorded in the Clydesdale Studbook of Canada as ancestors, comply with this rule."

How many times will the average man have to re-read that rule to be sure he understands it?

Buy in Stores for Cash.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Last summer you published a couple of pointed editorials advising readers not to encourage or permit the expensive and time-consuming attentions of peripatetic agents and salesmen, but to buy what they wanted in the stores for cash, where different makes can be compared, and an impartial decision arrived at.

A recent experience of ours in buying a sewing machine is so thoroughly in line with your suggestions that I thought it might be acceptable. For a year or more we have been favored by frequent calls from the agents of one sewing-machine store. Four different men came, at four different times. Persistence might have served its purpose, only that my wife had once had an experience with a book agent, which inoculated her for all time with an anti-agent vaccine. So to each man she said a polite but impregnable "No thank you, we're not ready yet."

When we did get ready, we took an afternoon, and visited the local stores of several leading firms, had them explain the good points of their machines, and, after deciding which one of their particular make we would prefer, if we took any, I said to each salesman: "Now, what is your rock-bottom cash price for that machine, on a week's trial. There will be no installment payments, and need be no time wasted running after us. Name your best figure." The result was a heavy discount from the nominal credit price. One man offered a \$45 machine for \$35, and afterwards for \$33. Another offered us a machine commonly sold for \$40 or \$45, at \$28, but would not come down from this. He volunteered the information, however, that an agent had brought in an order the other day for exactly the same kind of machine at \$48, on credit, and he said they had sold it as high as \$50.

Well, two machines were brought into the house, and tried, side by side. We were in advance rather partial to the \$33 machine. The salesman who sent it made a strong point of the reputation behind it. However, we were not buying a reputation; we were buying a sewing machine, and if the reputation was not borne out by its working and general satisfaction, it was of small concern to us. In the end we took the \$28 article, because it suited us best. The other fellow was very insinuating, and when he saw he was worsted, made all kinds of ploys and special offers, but I told him if he were to, at his price

in two, we wouldn't take his machine. The man who made the sale had the good sense to leave us alone. He saw we were determined to make our own decision, and left us to do it, never coming back a second time until we notified him to come and settle. "The chances are they made more money on this machine, at \$28, than on the one sold for \$48 on long time and precarious credit, after driving over the country half a dozen times, as they probably had to do."

If you enjoy the sensation of being chased and badgered by salesmen, you can have it for a hint. But bear in mind that you are liable to pay for the attention." "SPOT-CASH!"

HORSES.

Is a Stallion-license Law Advisable?

At the recent session of the Legislature a deputation waited upon the Agricultural Committee, and presented the claims of the horse-breeders of Ontario for legislation, in the interests of horse-breeding. What they asked for was that the recommendation of the Ontario Horse-breeders' Association, which had been fully discussed and approved of at the Winter Fairs at Guelph and Ottawa, be crystallized into legislation. Among other things, those recommendations include the licensing of stallions. The members of the Agricultural Committee decided—no doubt, wisely—to postpone action in the matter for another year. In the meantime, the question is before the people, and it seems incumbent upon those in favor of legislation regulating the breeding of horses and the licensing of stallions, to do some moulding of public opinion, if they wish to influence the Legislature in their behalf.

The enactment of a stallion-license law is a rather knotty problem for legislators to handle. Unless there is a strong public sentiment in its favor, they are not likely to enter upon the task with any degree of enthusiasm, no matter how necessary such legislation may be in the interests of horse-breeding. This was clearly pointed out by many members of the Agricultural Committee when the request for legislation was presented to them, a few weeks ago. This attitude will not be lessened any, if nothing is done between now and the next session of the Legislature to influence public opinion in favor of a stallion-license law. The approach of the breeding season affords an opportunity to horsemen to do some very effective educational work in the interest of such legislation. Might it not be possible for stallion-owners and others who are in favor of a license law to circulate a petition asking for the signature of farmers in favor of it. Such petitions might be placed in the hands of parties who travel through the country in charge of stallions, and who could secure signatures, without very much cost to anyone.

As to the advisability of enacting a stallion-license law, there is, no doubt, some difference of opinion, even among horsemen. Such a law, however, drafted in the best interests of the business, and properly and intelligently enforced, would do much to improve horse-breeding methods in Ontario. While breeding methods have improved somewhat of late years, due to a better knowledge of what is required on the part of farmers generally, there is still enough promiscuous mating and breeding to unsound and inferior stallions to make some legislation in the way of regulating the business necessary.

A stallion-license law should not be any more difficult of enforcement than the legislation passed at the last session of the Legislature controlling the erection of cheese factories and creameries, and providing for the licensing of cheese and butter makers. Nor should it be any more knotty a problem for legislators to tackle. There are stallion-license laws in force in other countries: Wisconsin has such a law in force; Manitoba has a modified form of such a law. There is an agitation on in New York State for such legislation, and the time seems ripe for Ontario to take action. Anyone who has carefully studied the report of the Horse Commission cannot but be convinced that something must be done if Ontario is to take the place she should in the breeding of high class horses.

An energetic educational campaign in the interests of better breeding methods is claimed by some to be the only way of effecting an improvement. Educational methods will, no doubt, do much, but there comes a time in the history of every industry when something more than education is required. For years, educational methods had been tried in effecting an improvement in factory conditions in connection with cheese and butter making, but finally the legislation recently enacted had to be resorted to. Every farmer in Ontario is more or less interested in horse-breeding. For this reason, the horse industry is of equal, if not more, importance than dairying, and should receive as much consideration at the hands of legislators, both in a legislative and educational way. "CHRONICLE."