

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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luxuriant crops; geese, chicory, mildew, thistles, darnel, etc., are farmers' enemies; birds should be scared off the crops and weeds cut down; some steep the seed to get larger produce, and careful annual selection by hand of the best seed is the only way to prevent degeneration. One might suppose that old Virgil had taken out his papers as a member in good standing of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association.

Then, in the 18th book of the natural history of Pliny, the wisdom was pointed out of locating on a good farm where labor was plentiful, and not too far from a large town, so that the produce could be handled to advantage; that farm-houses should be well built and the land well managed; that a man in starting farming should not rashly despise or make light of the knowledge of another. Not bad advice for the twentieth century in the best Provinces of Canada!

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Sunken in neglect through the Dark Ages, the Moors revived agriculture in Spain, and a 12th-century work shows that soils, manuring, irrigation, plowing, sowing, harvesting, live stock, horticulture, arboriculture and plant diseases, were all carefully studied. Flanders is credited with being the pioneer of "high farming," but for modern times England led the way, and America followed. As far back as 1562, Thos. Tusser wrote a book in verse called, "Five Hundred Points of Husbandry," that for nearly 200 years enjoyed lasting repute in England. Jethro Tull, who invented the drill in Berkshire in 1701, began an era of improvement in tillage that has continued intermittently down to the present.

European wars have had a paralyzing effect upon the progress of agriculture. Depression in prices in Britain was a blow to exclusive grain-growing, and revived confidence in the possibilities of stock-rearing with dairying and allied industries. Then came agricultural organizations, agricultural literature, breed societies, governmental agencies and aid, the application of modern agricultural machinery, agricultural schools and experiment stations.

The difference between the Past and the Present is not that the basic facts and principles of agriculture were unknown, but in bygone ages they were possessed by the few; latterly, they have become systematized, made a science, and through the art of printing, through public and private enterprisers, have become the inheritance of everyone; and even those who will not read, learn by imitation. In recounting the remarkable progress of agriculture on the American continent, the author of the Britannica article notes that this has been due chiefly to two causes: first, the popular tenure of the soil, and second the character of the agricultural class, who apply to the cultivation of the soil as much mental alertness and activity as has been applied to trade, manufacture, and what are called the learned professions.

Two Sides to Country Life.

One serious trouble with many people is that their thinking wears into ruts, and they look at life or conditions from one point of view only. In seeking to improve country life, it must be considered at least in two aspects, financial and social. As Dr. E. O. Fippin, of the New York College of Agriculture has aptly observed in a recent public address, those who live on the farm must have the means of existence. But it must be more than mere maintenance. A certain amount of food will, for example, keep a cow alive, but she will not be a profitable animal to her owner. She will not be a success, for there will be no surplus as a return for what is invested in her, and her appearance is not likely to afford any satisfaction. Dr. Fippin goes on to remark that the farmer must be able to produce things, must have a market for his produce, have the means of reaching the market, and, lastly, there must be a reasonable margin of profit from the market price above the cost of production. Referring to his own observation, he concluded that, while prices seemed good, it was pretty definitely understood that farming as a business was not as prosperous as it ought to be. One aim, then, of those engaged in agricultural education, and in the conduct of public affairs, must be to lead to a better understanding of the principles of practice of farming, and to so improve the conditions under which it is carried on as to leave a surplus over the cost of production.

The other and even more important function of country life is associative living. People must have the necessities of life and more, and they must associate with each other. This involves standards of honesty, morality and outlook. It is a life problem and a social problem. In the country, more than in the city, social business and religious affairs are closely interrelated. They are not to be carried on independently. One is aided or limited by the other. Hence, if the religious life of the country is to be deepened, it will be accomplished best through the instrumentality of those in sympathy with financial and social betterment. The man of the country in these times is too observant, and generally too well read to be reached in any missionary spirit—not if he knows it—and those who would set about the work of leadership through the Farmers' Institute system, the local club or other school, must recognize all these elements, so that the proposition will be approached on broad lines leading to a gratifying issue.

A Programme for Men.

Men, young, middle-aged, and older, in the hurry, stress and clamor of these days, need self-discipline, a code of honor and primer of principles if they are to take a straight course in the world of business and politics. It is not enough to preach human brotherhood, it must be practiced. The very essence of it we have seldom seen more concisely stated than in the following clean-cut paragraph of naked truth from The Continent, of Chicago:

"The manly man dare not make gain for himself out of others' misery; nor claim from any man or men more than the worth of what he does for them; nor employ his superior power or knowledge to take away the rights of the weak or ignorant; nor follow a livelihood which does not produce human benefit; nor willingly cultivate

idleness in place of industry; nor take more than his stipulated compensation for the performance of any duty of trust, whether financial, social or political; nor sell his conscientious opinion in any case or place for any consideration; nor fear to do justice under any responsibility; nor lie; nor betray; nor desert; nor anywhere do in secret place what one would be unwilling to have reported on the housetop."

HORSES.

The faithful horse is as popular as ever. This was well demonstrated by the interest taken in this class of live stock at the big fairs held recently.

The cold, chilly nights will soon be here, and if the hard-worked horse is to be kept in good condition, with a sleek, smooth coat, he must be stabled, and not forced to go shivering to the bare pasture field in search of food to prepare him for his coming day's work, conditions which impair his vitality, and, instead of fortifying him for his strenuous labor, serve to break him down.

Quality is still the strong point in placing the awards on horses at the shows. Good quality is usually accompanied by a desirable action, and these two make a horse hard to beat. Greater size is now being emphasized, and the breeding to follow is that which will combine these qualities, without detriment to either.

The show-ring demands an experienced man to handle the horse. There is always a great deal in the way the horse is posed before the judges, and also in the manner in which he is led or driven. The showman must be wide awake, and pay his entire attention to the immediate work in hand, that of showing his horse for all that is in him.

Judging by the inquiries for horses around the breeders' stables at the fairs, and considering the high prices asked and actually received for some of these animals, and the keen demand for the right kind of stock, horsemen need not lose much sleep worrying over the uncertainty of the horse market.

A really good horse in conformation, quality and action is never a bad color. While everyone has some favorite color which he prizes in his equine beauties, it is not wise to discriminate against an animal simply because his hair is not of the most preferable shade. Horses of almost every color common to these animals win the laurels at the great shows in strong competition; and, besides, color does not detract from a horse's usefulness, only for very special purposes.

Overfeeding is perhaps not so prevalent as the opposite condition, yet many state—and there is some ground for the argument, that more horses are ruined by too liberal rations than by feeding too little. A few colts and young horses have been noticed at this year's fairs which would have been the better of a smaller amount of fattening food. Others were present showing a little thin. Proper feeding is an art which takes a lifetime to accomplish, and great care must be taken, especially in the fitting of the younger individuals. A colt once fed off his legs never regains his lost quality.

Why Show Geldings in the Breeding Classes?

In looking over what ought to be exclusive breeding classes in the judging rings of some of our larger shows, one finds several geldings competing. This is true more particularly in the Roadster and Carriage classes, the prize list for these calling, in many cases, for filly or gelding. Good geldings make a very attractive show in harness, but just why they should be admitted to the breeding classes, is rather difficult to understand. No horseman would think of showing stallions and fillies in the same class, and while the difference in appearance between geldings and fillies is not so well marked, showing them together in a class for breeding purposes is even more ridiculous than showing stallions and fillies in the same class. If the horsemen demand classes for geldings on the line, let the management of the shows give them these classes, but let them avoid the folly of allowing them to compete with the fillies in the breeding classes. The gelding has his place at the show, and that is in the harness classes, or on the line in a separate class, and not competing in the same section with useful yearling, two-year-old or three-year-old fillies. Oftentimes the gelding is the best animal