

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and 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.
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ADDRESS—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
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push the live-stock industry as he never has done before. We hear a good deal of discussion about how much wheat is going to be sown this fall and how much grain produced next year, but much of this advice and argument could very fittingly be shifted to the condition of the live-stock industry. With pigs and cattle and also sheep in such demand, what better outlet is there for the grain than to feed it to these classes of stock, and, besides this, live-stock farming is vastly different from grain farming, and the farmer must plan his crops ahead to economically, scientifically and successfully feed his stock that they may make the largest gains, and get on the market in the best possible condition at the earliest age.

The farmer has been short of men. He needs men to help him perfect his live-stock business. He can make himself a better farmer and his farm a better farm, he can increase the yields in this country immensely, and we can bank upon it that this increase is going to be necessary. It is his opportunity to make the most of the situation, get the men, farm his farm as it has never been farmed before, and grow the largest crops that it has ever grown. While he is doing this he is strengthening the foundation of the country.

We read that agriculture is Canada's foundation, and as long as the farmers are prosperous Canada is prosperous. This is so to a certain extent, but in a young and growing country with a magnificent future before it we must have large manufacturing industries, and these right now should be worked to the limit. Fear, and talk of tight money and hard times incident upon the great conflict now raging have caused a slackening in output from many of the big firms in Canada. We must get away from this state of affairs and take a new lease of life. We must get in the game right now when the opening is wide and unobstructed. There are hundreds of articles in daily use in this country that have been imported from the country which is now our enemy. Why not make an effort to produce these at home, and why not make that effort early and get the trade before our enemy can recuperate and hold it? There is no doubt but that there

is going to be considerable boycotting of foreign goods, and if our own manufacturers are alert and wide-awake to the situation they will get in on the ground floor and be established before any chance of regaining trade has been offered to the country from which trade is now cut off. A young country like Canada, and one which more than many think forms part of the foundation of the British Empire, should lose no opportunity to increase her strength by the development of her own resources and the manufacture within her own borders into the finished product of all the raw material which she yields from her soil, her mines, her fisheries and her forests.

It is to be hoped that our manufacturing interests will exert every energy toward pushing this country ahead by manufacturing all that we need for our own use, and much to be exported elsewhere. A certain good must come to us out of the conflict, but we must be wide awake that some one else does not see the advantages first and reap the reward which we should get. Our agriculture must be strengthened, and at the same time our manufacturing industries must be reaped and increased, else we are not going to reap the benefit of the opportunity which is now offered to us. "Made In Canada" should inspire all to the greatest possible effort.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

As the country becomes more and more cleared, as the forest gradually gives way to cultivated land, the question of the preservation of bird life comes more and more to the front. There are two phases of this question. First, what species should be preserved? Second, how can we preserve them?

In answer to the first question we can say that all species except the House Sparrow, the Crow, the Cowbird, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the Bronzed Grackle, the Cooper's Hawk, and the Sharp-shinned Hawk should be preserved. We shall deal later with the particular reasons why each of the above-named species should not be protected, and what species should be especially encouraged, and shall proceed to discuss the second question.

In preserving our bird-life we find three essentials with which we must provide the birds—suitable cover, in which to feed and in which to build their nests, food at seasons when their food supply is scarce and freedom from enemies. Suitable cover should be obtained in many ways. By following such a method of cutting in the woodlot that while sufficient wood is obtained for use the size of the standing bush is not diminished, and its thickness not too much impaired, by leaving thickets in unopened ground, particularly along streams, by the planting of trees about the house and on waste ground, by the planting of hedges, and shrubbery about the house. Many of our birds are particularly fond of nesting in thickets along streams, and in many, many cases we see such thickets ruthlessly slashed down, for no reason on earth, as far as I can see, and much to the detriment of the birds and to the volume of water in the stream. In the selection of trees to plant about the house we should give first choice to those species which provide the birds with food as well as shelter. Such trees are the Russian Mulberry and the Mountain Ash. The former species is particularly useful, as it provides a fruit of which many species of birds are very fond, and this fruit ripens at such a time as to attract them just as the cherries and other cultivated fruits are ripening, and upon which they would otherwise feed to a greater or less extent. The Mountain Ash, on the other hand, provides food for those species which remain with us late in the fall, and for those which visit us in the winter. There are many shrubs which furnish food very attractive to birds, and which are easy to obtain in practically any part of Canada. As to supplying food, we have already given some hints above, and it is well to remember that no birds are killed by cold, but that they may die of starvation in cold weather. Therefore in cold weather it is a good plan to hang pieces of suet in the trees, and if the House Sparrows are not so numerous as to drive off all other birds, to scatter a little grain and bread-crumbs. If one wishes to have plenty of birds about the house it is important to remember that the birds appreciate a pan of water, particularly in hot weather, at which they may drink and bathe.

Now, as to providing freedom from enemies. The main enemies of our native birds are the House Sparrow, the cat, the Crow, the Cowbird, and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. The House Sparrow drives away many of our most desirable species, and is itself a dirty and destructive pest. Therefore, they should be shot and poisoned until none are left on the premises. If poison is employed,

strychnine, soaked into wheat, is the best, and it should, of course, be placed where nothing but the House Sparrows will get it. I have recently heard of another way in which to get rid of House Sparrows which I have not yet had an opportunity to try. It is to mix some plaster of paris into a thick paste, place it in a shallow pan, scatter some grain on the surface of the paste, and place the pan in a spot much frequented by the sparrows. The paste is said to harden in the sparrows' stomachs and intestines and kill them. I should be very glad if some reader would try this and report the results to "The Farmer's Advocate."

Crows, Cowbirds, and Sharp-shinned Hawks should be shot at every opportunity, and the same treatment should be accorded to all wandering cats. Most well-fed cats do not appear to make a practice of killing many birds, but some are inveterate bird-hunters, and if our birds are to be preserved my advice to people owning such cats would be to do away with them and get another cat.

The small boy with an air rifle or 22 and egg-collecting proclivities is in some localities a distinct menace to bird life. By careful training by parents and teachers he can, however, soon be turned into a bird observer and a bird protector instead of a bird destroyer. As far as any real value of the collection goes one might just as well collect buttons as birds eggs, and with much more happy results as far as the preservation of our bird-life is concerned.

THE HORSE.

Care at Weaning Time.

Kindly give full information through your valuable magazine how to wean a three-months-old colt which is separated from its mother. Also state what is best to feed it, and the care it should receive. Where should it be kept, in the barn or field? SUBSCRIBER.

Between now and late autumn many foals will be separated from their mothers, and at this period in the life of the colt intelligence and care should be exercised that nothing injurious to either foal or dam should arise out of the treatment each receives. The good horseman has this epoch in the development of the young one in mind, and will prepare the foal for it by getting it acquainted with feeds that will be proper when the mother is taken away.

Haste in weaning should be avoided. The three-months-old colt will survive, of course, if properly attended, but when five months have gone by the operation is fraught with less danger and worry to both foal and dam. It is perhaps, barring special cases, the most convenient age to bring about the separation. However, if the mare is required to do heavy work and is not in good condition it will be wise to wean at an earlier date, but if the mother is not undergoing hard labor or be unemployed at the too-common practice of a sudden separation at an early age is irrational and unwise.

In vogue there are two methods of bringing about the weaning of a foal where the separation may be either sudden or prolonged. In the latter case the mother is brought back perhaps three times daily and the young one allowed to nurse. This operation is soon lessened to twice daily, and then to once on each day which soon culminates in complete separation. This system is all right, and should be practiced where the attendant will not trouble to milk the mare as often as required. In cases of negligence the mare is liable to suffer from mammitis as the mammae, or milk secreting glands, are still quite active at that age of the colt, and unless precautions be taken troubles are likely to arise that will injure the dam permanently as a breeder. During the time the two are apart, however, they should not be within hearing distance, and when this system is rigidly carried out it entails considerable trouble and usually throws the balance in favor of a complete separation when the foal is arrived at a convenient and proper age to wean. Then mother and foal should be put apart where they can neither hear or see each other, and the dam should be milked as often as required to prevent trouble with the mammary apparatus. She will soon dry off and cease to worry about her colt. During this time the colt should be confined in a comfortable but strong box stall containing no manger or boxes with which the uneasy foal may become entangled. Low walls are particularly dangerous, as the young one may rear up and in an attempt to get over become mixed up and injured. When flies are thick the stall is better darkened in the daytime, and when a few days have passed a run out doors at night in a high-walled paddock will be helpful.

Sudden changes of diet are detrimental to any class of live stock, and no less so for the colt. Prior to weaning it should be taught to eat bran, chop and hay, and these habits will come naturally if running with a grain-fed mother, for it will be nibbling at her food long before weaning time. Finely-chopped oats are good, some-