

## 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, 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.—30 cents per line, agate, flat. Live-stock advertising given on application.
  4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payment of arrears must be made as required by law.
  5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
  6. REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by Money Order, Postal Note, Express 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, \$1.00 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. ADDRESSES OF CORRESPONDENTS ARE CONSIDERED AS CONFIDENTIAL and will not be forwarded.
  14. 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.

facturers had ample reason to struggle desperately to prevent the true facts from being known to the Board, and that if this Board could have secured the assistance desired, a statement of the facts and figures disclosed, followed by an order as the result of the analysis of the statements of affairs sent to this Board, would have startled and incensed the Canadian public beyond anything that has developed in recent months. This information is still due the Canadian people, when your Cabinet renders the ordinary and reasonable assistance necessary to present it."

"The Farmer's Advocate" concurs in the request for a committee to investigate, but would urge that such commission have full powers and the right of way.

### Thrift and Spending.

Few things more complimentary can be said of a people than that they are thrifty. But thrift has its varieties as well as honesty, and such are the extremes of method by which thrift is attained that one might be either a miser or a liberal spender and still qualify. Generally speaking, there are two kinds of thrift common on the farms. One may be thrifty and succeed by dint of very hard work and only the minimum cash expenditures. One may also become thrifty by less slavish toil but more liberal expenditure for labor-saving implements or other productive investments for the farm. The spendthrift farmer never can succeed, but the man who spends wisely for improvements that will make him money can have a much easier time at a very arduous occupation than the man who relies solely on steady labor for his success. Head work is of as much advantage to the farmer as manual labor, and will often prolong his life as well as increase his contentment. There is such a thing as the joy of farming, but too often our noses are too close to the grindstone and we pass it by. There are many ways of making more money with even less work from farming. No doubt for some, more or better live stock would help. Others might use better seed, larger implements, or a silo. The man who spends some time trying to make his work lighter is not necessarily lazy. He may achieve more by spending than his neighbor can by hard work and close saving.

### Crossing the Prairies.

BY SANDY FRASER.

Four or five days spent on a railway train is an unco' tiresome experience in a guid mony ways, but it must be a lot better for those that ride in the ordinary coach than for the chap that has his ain private car hitched to the end o' the train and has to travel alone. There's generally something doing when ye're wi' a crowd. If naething else there's usually a couple or three babies along, which helps to keep things stirred up a bit. And, noo an' again, ye'll be seein' or hearin' somethin' to mak' ye laugh.

On my trip West, that I hae been tellin' ye aboot lately, I always had my eyes an' ears open for anything that might be gaem' on, tae relieve the monotony o' lookin' at sae muckle country as I was seein' oot o' the window.

There was an Englishman, juist oot frae the Auld Country, apparently, on the same car wi' us. He was findin' things strange, a'richt. When the conductor punched his ticket he put a slip o' paper in the band o' the Englishman's hat, as they hae the habit o' daein' to keep track o' their passengers. After a while the Englishman wanted to gang back tae the smoking-car for a cigar or twa, and says he to the conductor, "Say guard, will it be safe for me to leave my hat on the rack heah with that blooming ticket in it?"

We had anither auld farmer on board too, beside mysel'. In the morning, after we had managed tae get dressed an' oot o' oor berths, that nigger chap that makes the beds came along an' started tae brush us doon, for all the world like he was curryin' a bunch o' horses in a stable. When he came tae the auld farmer he gave him a couple or three whisks and then held oot his hand for the tip he was expectin'. But oor farmer friend wasna sae slack. He took the nigger's hand an' shook it, an' says he, "Good-bye, my boy. I'm sorry ye hae to leave us. See that ye tak' care o' yersel'."

Most o' the time the hours seem tae be passing slow enough, however. And aboot once a day ye have to set yer watch back an hour, to agree wi' the time-table. Ye see, in travellin' West ye're chasin' the sun and ye are catchin' up tae him at that rate. The worst o' it was, wi' us, we were always settin' the watches back at meal-time, and I was hungry enough sometimes, I can tell ye, before I got my dinner.

Three times a day, gin ye want anything tae eat, ye have to mak' yer way back to what we got in the habit o' callin' the "hold-up car," for want o' a better name. (I ken now how the annual report o' the finances o' the C. P. R. comes tae be so satisfactory tae the Directors.) But they put up a guid meal, I'll say that for them. There's mair to cat than juist boquets an' table-napkins, like in some places I've been. And there's no charge for an extra glass o' water.

Gin a chap happens to be o' a sociable disposition he can generally get acquainted wi' a number o' his fellow-passengers an' put in some o' the time tradin' experiences an' opinions wi' them. I fell in wi' half-a-dozen or so o' vera decent people on my way West, and made oot to get mair or less information frae all o' them.

One chap I met had been farming up north in Saskatchewan, somewhere, and he told me that parts o' that country had to be cleared o' trees before it could be plowed. But they cut the trees down by machinery, up there, and instead o' pullin' oot the stumps they juist turn the whole thing upside doon wi' a big breaker plow and a thirty-five horse-power tractor. They use this same tractor for drawing the machine that cuts the trees. This machine had a blade on it shaped something like a scythe, and they draw it against the trunks o' the poplars and ither soft trees they hae in that country and it cuts them off, slick as a whistle. It brings doon anything up tae the size o' a man's arm. All it needs is one man tae run it and three or four to keep a road clear. I wonder what oor grandfathers would hae said if some agent had offered tae sell them a machine like that to do their under-brushin' for them.

Once this bush land is cleared off I'm thinkin' it will be a better country for wheat-raisin', an' the likes o' that, than some o' the land further south. It canna be worse than some o' what I saw along the line o' the C. P. R. anyway. When ye've travelled a day or so west o' Winnipeg ye begin tae run into it. I saw thousands o' acres that were as bare as the road, all drifted over, wi' the high winds they hae been havin' this spring.

One hears some unco' hard-luck stories aboot this part o' the West. I was told o' one farmer who had lost three crops hand-running. Once it was hail, once it was frost, and I dinna ken what got the third one. But he wasna' discouraged. He went to work in the town last winter and earned enough to buy his seed grain this spring. He put in the crop and in less than three weeks the wind-storms came, and what wasn't blown out o' the ground was buried sae deep that he'll probably never see it till the day o' judgment.

They hae a weed in the West that is called "rolling mustard," if I mind right. This weed is carried by the wind over the prairies until it comes up against a wire fence, or some ither obstruction o' the kind. I saw miles o' fences wi' these weeds piled right over them. And then where the land had been drifting it had heaped itself over these weeds until there was juist one lang mound o' sand where had been a fence. It was what ye might call a sight to mak' sore eyes.

And ye wad see farm-houses, here an' there, wi' not a tree or a blade o' grass aroond them, right in the middle o' a sand-plain of maybe a hundred acres or mair. They say the sand drifts right into these houses when the storm comes. It's na place for over-particular hoose-keepers, I wouldna be thinkin'.

I was tauld that there was forty townships blown oot this spring, to a mair or less degree, and that there is talk o' gettin' the Government to help wi' an irrigation scheme tae prevent the like happenin' in the future. Maybe it will be a help, but I dinna ken. I'm thinkin' it's bad farm practice that's at the bottom o' it all. They've cropped the land till there's naething left but the sand, and, when the wind comes noo, it's bound to blow. Let them get back intae the land something o' what they hae taken oot o' it, by plowing down green crops o' all kinds, and through time they'll find their farms inclined tae quiet doon a bit and not sae anxious to be strayin' off intae the next township ilka time the wind rises. Gin this plan willna wark I see naething for it but to let the land rin back to grass an' let the buffaloes have it again.

But it's time I cam' tae a stop. I'll hae a word to say to ye later, maybe, aboot the last stage o' my trip, amang the mountains an' valleys o' British Columbia.

### Nature's Diary.

BY A. BROOKER KLUGH, M.A.

#### The Baltimore Oriole.

Few birds hold a higher place in popular estimation than the Baltimore Oriole. The reasons for this are not far to seek, and we find them to be four in number—its brilliant plumage, musical and cheerful song, its peculiar and attractive nest, and its preference for the vicinity of human habitations.

The brilliant orange and black of the plumage of the male gave the bird its name of Baltimore Oriole, for Cecilius Calvert, second Baron of Baltimore, when he came to America was both surprised and delighted to find a bird wearing his armourial colors, and sent a specimen to Linnaeus. It has also given rise to two other names frequently applied to it—"Golden Robin" and "Fire-bird," while the character of its nest has given it a fourth common cognomen—Hangnest.

The adult male Oriole has the head, neck, shoulders and the upper part of the back jet black, the breast, lower back, and under parts brilliant cadmium orange, the wings black, with the lesser coverts orange, and margin of the greater coverts tipped with white, while the end half of the middle tail-feathers are black and the rest of the tail-feathers orange with a middle black band. The pattern of the female is similar, but her colors are burnt orange and rusty black.

It takes three years for the male Oriole to attain his full plumage, the whole tail of a young male sometimes being yellow, while sometimes only the two middle feathers are black, and frequently the black of the back of the young male is skirted with orange, and the tail tipped with the same color.

The males of this species arrive in Canada about May 10, and at once announce their presence by their loud and joyous song. They arrive a week or more in advance of the females, and during this interval they not only vie with one another in song, but fight pitched battles, chasing one another through the branches and from tree to tree with angry notes. "The coming of the females," says Ernest Ingersoll, "offers some diversion to these pugnacious cavaliers, or at least furnishes a new *causis belli*, for, while devoting themselves with great ardor to wooing and winning their coy mistresses, their jealousy is easily aroused and their fighting is often resumed. Even the lady-loves sometimes forget themselves so far as to attack their fancied rivals savagely. This is not all fancy but lamentable fact."

Much has been written in praise of the song of the Oriole. Wilson said that it possessed "a certain wild plaintiveness and naivete extremely interesting;" Higginson says, "Yonder Oriole fills with light and melody the thousand branches of a neighborhood." Dr. Brewer thought that when they first arrived the voices of the males were loud and somewhat shrill, and that their song changed into a richer, lower and more pleasing refrain when they were joined by their partners. F. Scuyler Mathews, who has made the most critical studies of the songs of North American birds which has ever been attempted, and who has recorded many hundred songs of various species in musical notation, says: "The Oriole is a musician in the fullest sense of the word. His ability to whistle a well-constructed song is unquestionable. His only fault is his fragmentary treatment of a good theme, and his chary way of singing it. He is lavish with calls and chattering, and devotes too much time to preliminaries before he begins on the song that he is well able to round out to a satisfactory finish. His voice is a full rich, round, though somewhat metallic, suggestive of a mezzo-soprano, generally reliable in pitch and percussive in effect. He has a certain vehemence, if not excited, way of singing which is all his own. No other bird can give a staccato note so well, none other except the Thrush can approach him in clearness of style; he never mixes things up, his A is A, either sharp or flat, it never gets too near B. He never slurs over a passage, on the contrary he hits his notes with hammerlike taps directly on the head."

Songs recorded by this writer exhibit syncopation, and Dr. Mathews says: "This music is remarkable for its syncopated character. The bird occasionally fails to put in an important note at its proper place, or he accents a note without reference to the time-beat. In music this is called syncopation, and in popular estimate—rag-time. I have never discovered this character in the song of any other species than the Oriole."

Ernest Ingersoll says: "The female also has a pretty song, which mingles with the brilliant tenor of the male during all the season of love-making."

(To be continued.)