

## 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

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WINNIPEG, MAN.

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safe course of life, but eventually these buoys  
must again emerge to the top. The nation is  
fortunate that ever keeps them in sight. When  
such standards are steadily held, farming becomes  
a different occupation. It is the field par excel-  
lence for the development of strong, healthy men—  
large-hearted, fair-minded, generous, just, honor-  
ing God, and dealing kindly with their fellow  
men.

### Country Ministers Confer for Rural Betterment.

Massachusetts made a beginning, and now other  
States are following that example, of bringing  
rural men of the pulpit into touch with the agri-  
cultural college, and enlisting their sympathies and  
efforts for the advancement of rural life. The  
church occupies the point of greatest advantage in  
all communities for the execution of ideas or prin-  
ciples; it has the greatest influence, or may have  
the greatest influence, upon the life of all com-  
munities, especially all rural communities. In  
those who are laboring for the establishment of  
better things in rural life, productively, as well as  
socially, could but enlist the co-operation of the  
church leaders, the advancement would be so rapid  
as to be almost revolutionary. For about three  
years Massachusetts has gradually been gaining the  
co-operation of the country pastors. Now, Michi-  
gan and Wisconsin are entering activities along  
similar lines. For a description of the work in  
Michigan we are indebted to the Breeders' Gazette.

This conference met July 12th-15th, at the  
Agricultural College, in response to a call by its  
president. Sixty-two men, and half as many women,  
attended, representing seven States—outsiders  
attending to acquire the infecting germ. Daily  
conferences were held. The College men lectured  
on roadmaking, rural economies, dairying, crop-  
growing, fruit growing, soil drainage, and the  
many various subjects that form the center of the  
farmer's life. Discussion was the order of the  
day, and even when subjects which seemed to be-  
long wholly to the church were under considera-  
tion, the rural problems kept coming to the sur-  
face. Each day's programme contained an address

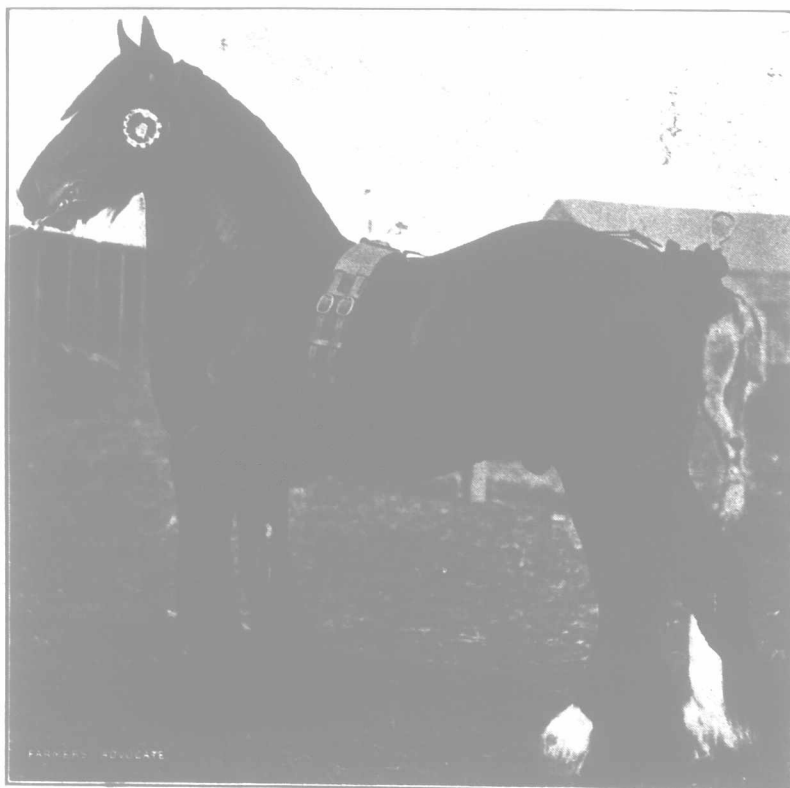
by the Rev. Chas. O. Bemis, a practical rural  
pastor of nine years' experience, in which he told  
of what he had actually done in his own parish  
toward leading his people into individual and com-  
munity effort for betterment physically, socially,  
economically, and spiritually. He emphasized the  
urgent need which a rural pastor has of being in  
intelligent sympathy and co-operation with his  
people, their work, and their possibilities. He  
declared that one of the first essentials of a com-  
munity is good roads, and that the preacher  
should know how to build them. He published a  
monthly paper, circulating it to a thousand fami-  
lies, setting forth the value of good roads in ad-  
vancing business and promoting the social life.  
He studied road machinery and road construction.  
After some months, he called a meeting, at which  
the question of road improvement was discussed,  
plans adopted, and steps taken for their execu-  
tion. After good roads, the next requisite, he  
claimed, was a good school; the preacher must  
know its requisites and how to develop it. He  
must throw every effort into the development of a  
wholesome social life, not only by preaching  
against the evils of some of the common recrea-  
tions, but by supplying something to take their  
place. "A rural minister must have a special  
knowledge and understanding of agriculture, for  
he should understand the everyday problems of a  
farmer's life, and be of some aid in solving them.  
He should be able to make suggestions on the  
principles of farm management, gardening, and  
sanitation."

When the pastors of our rural churches begin to  
measure up to these requirements, and exert even  
a part of the influences above suggested, there will  
be a revival of the church's hold on the commu-  
nity, as well as a rapid advancement in rural life.  
While it remains ever true that the pastor's su-  
preme function is in moral and spiritual leader-  
ship, it is more and more being realized that this  
is not promoted by a spirit of aloofness, most of  
all when it comes to relations with the young  
people, with their social instincts, buoyant aspira-  
tions, and illimitable possibilities.

## HORSES.

### Indiscriminate Mating.

The folly of indiscriminate mating of horses  
has been brought into prominent notice again re-  
cently by a controversy in the East over the



Halstead Royal Duke.

Two-year-old Shire Stallion. First and champion, Royal Show, England.

merits of colts from common mares and Thorough-  
bred stallions. During the past few years, many  
Thoroughbred stallions have been distributed  
through the East, especially in New York, and  
farmers have been advised by interested parties  
to breed their mares to them, with assurance that  
excellent offspring would result, whether intended  
for home work or for sale. For some reason, not  
explained by anyone interested in the scheme of  
toasting these racing stallions onto farmer pa-  
trons, none of the colts have so far developed into

desirable form for any purpose. F. M. Ware, a  
dealer of wide experience, prominent in Eastern  
circles, alike for his interest in equine affairs and  
for his business acumen, argues that nothing use-  
ful should be expected from this cross. Most of  
the offspring of this breeding that he has seen have  
been either faulty in underpinning or weedy in  
type to such a degree as to make them merely  
market trash. He states that the cross seems to  
accentuate the mental, physical and moral short-  
comings of both parents in the offspring, and it  
partakes of the virtues of neither. Additional  
evidence of the failure of this cross is furnished  
by D. E. Howatt from an experience of twelve  
years, from 1870 to 1882, in the attempt to pro-  
duce something of value from over 600 good cold-  
blooded mares bred to high-class Thoroughbred  
stallions. He states that the half-breds never  
amounted to anything, and that he does not recall  
a single one that had any real merit. He as-  
sumes that the experiment was a failure because  
the cross was too radical, and the sire had no  
power to transmit qualities not found in the Thor-  
oughbred race-horse.—[Breeders' Gazette.]

### The Draft Stallion Between Seasons.

Quite generally, for from two to three months  
in the spring, previous to going at stud work,  
the stallion is the object of solicitous care on  
the part of his groom or owner. Every effort  
conceivable is taken to put him in attractive  
form and bloom for the beginning of his season.  
Throughout the season, just as much effort is put  
forth in the way of grooming and extra feeding  
to retain as much of that bloom as possible,  
though usually it melts away pretty rapidly, for  
reasons we need not elaborate on just now. But,  
after the season is over, during the late summer,  
fall, and much of the winter, these efforts are too  
generally relaxed, or abandoned entirely.

What becomes of all those stallions so much in  
evidence during May and June? They are no  
longer met on the road; they are hardly seen in  
the fields. If one visits the owner's premises, it  
is a safe venture that the stallion is to be found  
in a box stall in a secluded and dark corner of  
one of the barns; if not there, he is out in a  
very small paddock behind the barn. About that  
piece of information one can easily build the  
treatment of the stallion. He is not exercised,  
except in so far as he takes exercise in the pad-  
dock. His feed is cut down, and, in general, but  
little time or energy is spent upon him; he is  
left to look after himself.

Such management is essentially wrong. It is  
not adapted to the nature, needs or functions of  
the stallion. The stallion is not simply a sire;  
he is, or is kept to be, a sire of draft horses, if  
of that class. To be this, he must be potentially  
a superior draft horse, and actually should fulfil  
these assumptions. In other words, he should be  
put to work. During the  
breeding season, his covers  
make such demands upon his  
vital forces that, outside of  
light exercise sufficient to re-  
tain normal health, he should  
not labor. After the season  
is over, the stallion should be  
put to steady work, which,  
while not extreme in its na-  
ture, yet should be sufficient to  
occupy his mind, and develop  
his body, and should, if prac-  
ticable, be as regular as the  
day comes round.

Work will divert the energies,  
if the stallion suddenly become  
idle by the closing of the sea-  
son, into useful channels, and  
avoid the formation of pernicious  
habits. Seasonal man-  
agement tends to develop a  
high degree of vitality and  
nervous force, the duties of the  
season have kept these in  
check. But these duties done,  
the counterbalancing force is  
removed, and if the stallion is  
kept confined in a box stall or  
a small paddock, with little or  
no exercise, the owner is surely  
encouraging the develop-  
ment of vices which may be  
ruinous to his stallion.

Work furnishes exercise and  
maintains normal health. Stall-  
ions seldom die during the  
breeding season; it is nearly  
always between seasons that  
we hear of this or that splendid horse suddenly  
dying. If these animals were put to work, and  
treated normally as horses, much of this heavy  
toll, the price of mismanagement, would be  
avoided. The stallion needs exercise. He has  
had it every day for the breeding season, and  
must have it throughout the year if he is to be  
maintained as a stallion. If his status is to be  
reduced from that of a stallion to a beef animal,  
exercise is not required. It is contrary to all  
laws of health and vigor to expect the animal to