

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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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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sell them they must in the end be the losers, but no live-stock man cares to have a government step in and say, "You must not sell until a certain age." If this were law, think of all the scrubs which would have to be kept at a loss. Too many nondescripts are raised as it is.

The writer has in mind ten calves which he saw purchased in the fall of the year, the calves being anywhere from nine months to a year old, at the ridiculously small price of \$5 each, but these calves were wintered, pastured another summer and fed off the following winter and very little money was made on them; in fact, if all feed and labor had been carefully recorded, they would have shown a loss. They were the pronounced scrub variety, and to get rid of a lot of rough feed the purchaser took a chance on them. Such calves, at the money, were raised at a loss to the producer, and fed at a loss by the feeder. They would have been much more profitable sold as veal, even though they would not have brought the highest price. Imagine such scrubs, among which were several heifers, put into a breeding herd. On the other hand, the writer knows of two animals, and these are only two of many, which were fed off at an earlier age than the calves previously mentioned, and which sold for upwards of \$100 each, finished under two years of age, high-class baby beefs. This latter class of animal might have been a profitable breeder. Herein lies the difficulty—we firmly believe that it would be more profitable to discard inferior animals as calves than to raise them, but it is a deplorable fact that hundreds and thousands of heifer calves, which, if properly cared for, would go on to maturity and add to the value of the breeding herds in which they are dropped, are monthly going to the butcher. The breeder should know best and the successful breeder does know and is following the system of keeping his good heifer calves.

All that can be asked is, that the breeder weigh the matter carefully before disposing of the good calves. Remember that the cows are getting older and soon must go and that calves

must take their place. He must be the sole judge. If in the long run he sees more to be gained by selling the calves let him follow the system. If, however, as must be the case if he goes into the matter fully, he sees more profit in keeping the choicest of his heifer calves, let him start at once to improve the herd and raise the value of the breeding cattle of the country. Inferior heifer calves should not live and the good ones should not die.

Spending Money not Sufficient.

The notion is current that about all governments need do to put farming in its proper place is to spend money for its furtherance. For the machine politician, official agriculture is cheap, easy and popular, but it is liable to be overdone. It is not his own funds that he distributes, but the people's, contributed chiefly through devices of indirect taxation, like customs duties, excise, postal charges, or from Dominion lands. When business is buoyant, money flows in like a well-fed stream, and what so easy as to dispense it with unction for "the good of the farmer?" "We are the people," moralizes our temporary political providence, "let us help you out of the rut."

Though the farmer has little to do with it, the cost of living, brought about mainly through too many people living in towns, has at last awakened the public and focussed attention on the farm. For thirty or forty years governments, schools, churches, newspapers and heads of families have been campaigning people into the cities. Now, with little regard to whether it pays him or not,

ful, but they must not be regarded as any excuse or offset for needless burdens put upon the industries of the farm, hindrances in the way of fair returns to the farmer or wasteful and needless military and naval outlays. Patronage and pap are not what farmers need. They had to fight for independent telephone service and largely developed it themselves. About the only utility of specific convenience handed out the farming community by the Government of Canada was rural mail delivery, and it was a long time coming. Parcel post ought to help round out the service. Peter McArthur has been talking about satisfying the farmer with "indirect benefits." He will do well to keep his eye on the educational aid programs, a large share of which may be absorbed long before his portion of the direct returns arrive. The movement is commendable, but there is more serious work ahead for governments. It is not so easy to re-adjust one-sided school systems, to choke off those who would loot the public chest or use the transport and taxation systems of the country for their own enrichment regardless of the people who provided the domain or whose pockets supply the cash.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M.A.

Emerson Hough, in the Saturday Post, had an article dealing with the breeding grounds of wild-fowl, which is of such importance to all Canadians interested in the study of nature, or in hunting, that I cannot refrain from quoting those portions of it which concern us most vitally. Speaking of the Weeks-McLean Bill, which recently passed Congress,

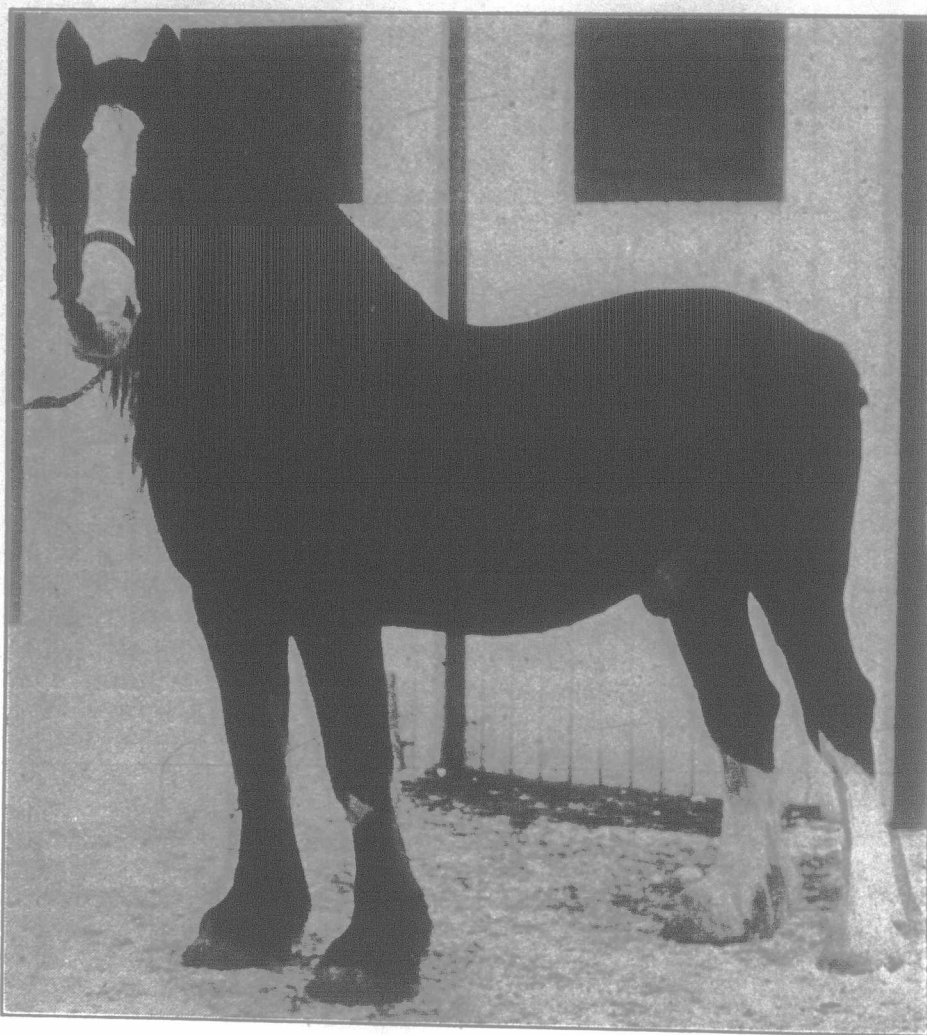
and which hands over to the Biological Survey of the United States the right to make laws regulating the shooting of migratory birds, he says: "Canada raises most of the wild fowl we kill to-day, and in return we give Canada no reciprocity, but on the other hand, for generations have done all we could to lessen the supply. The Weeks-McLean Bill is the first American game law that has ever given Canada a square deal. Only the narrowest of selfishness can fail to see that in giving Canada this square deal we help not only Canada, but both Canada and ourselves, since we are giving up our old foolish doctrine that you can continually reap and never sow. The greatest sowing grounds to-day lie in Canada."

There has been for some years and is to-day an entirely erroneous opinion among sportsmen that there are immense areas of excellent breeding ground in the far North, which will take the place of the breeding grounds which have been destroyed by civilization just south and north of the boundary between the United

States and Western Canada. In regard to this supposition Mr. Hough says:

"Now, it is not true that we shall ever again have in the far North, or anywhere else, as good breeding grounds as those that have largely been wiped out just south and just north of the dividing line between this country and Canada—that was the best nesting ground on this continent, and we have nothing to take its place. I say this after a journey from the American border to the Arctic Ocean, along the natural flyway of our wildfowl, which follows the Mississippi Valley in this country in large part, and in large part the Athabasca-Mackenzie River Valley in the Dominion of Canada. By the valley I mean the waterway of the Athabasca, Slave and Mackenzie Rivers, with their adjacent lakes and streams.

"Very happily for all of us there are breeding grounds in the far northern country where the railroad will never go; but even this statement



Royal Ronald (14824).

This imported Clydesdale stallion weighs 1,970 pounds. He stands 17 hands high, is six years old, and will be sold cheap, by T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ontario.

or how extra hard he must toil, the farmer is to be educated or coaxed or cajoled into growing more to feed the masses and incidentally keep the bank coffers full, the railroads humming and the Big Interests growing bigger. Every other man in town knows what ails the farmer, but only about one in a hundred thousand thinks seriously of putting his hand to the plow to help him grow more corn or potatoes.

As never before governments, federal and provincial, have awakened to the gravity of the situation, and it is well that they have, but if the efforts cease with a campaign of education it will not meet the case. That is only one-half the program. This ought they to do, but not leave the other undone. Wisely administered, these expenditures will be enlightening and help-