

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.
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3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
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The Newspaper Nuisance.

The fair-going public must be almost exasperated at being "button-holed" by the subscription representatives of papers which cannot live on their merits. When it requires the persuasive powers of a little army of glib-tongued gentry together with their "strong-arm" methods and worthless pens, pencils, razors, books, cards and other so-called premiums to waylay the victim and separate him from almost any amount of money from one dollar down for a paper to come to his home fifty-two times per year, what can the subscriber expect to get in that paper? If it had anything of value about it surely it could be sold on its merits as all papers should be. When a man gives you a premium (none of which will stand close inspection) it is more than likely that the paper he sends you is in the same class as the premium, all right until compared with the standard articles. The Winter Fair at Guelph was again graced with the presence of subscription men plying their trade in the same old way. It is about time Fair Management established a rule prohibiting canvassing for papers on their grounds if they are unable to control such canvassing by keeping the representatives of papers in properly allotted space, and by prohibiting premiums. No canvasser, who is any good himself and who has a valuable paper to offer, will work where such methods are practiced, and no self-respecting fair-goer cares to be collared the minute he enters the fair grounds or fair buildings and led aside to have something, which he doesn't want, foisted upon him. It is a safe bet every time that the paper which offers premiums and uses such methods to get new subscribers isn't worth the price, and in selecting papers for the coming year's reading better satisfaction will be assured if only those which are sold on their merits are given a place. The paper which has a stated price and gets it, gives many times the money's worth in its pages. And furthermore, the Canadian Postal Department should withdraw the postal privileges from all publications which adopt the premium and "strong-arm" method of securing subscribers. Every paper should be forced to operate on a straight business basis.

The Live Stock Gamut and Prices.

Throughout 1916 some exceptional prices have been paid for pure-bred sires and dams, both in Britain and America. To many, these ten, fifteen and twenty-five-thousand-dollar prices appear to be extrinsic rather than intrinsic values. In some cases, perhaps, they are, while in other instances the \$25,000 sire may pay for himself. He will not do it at the head of a grade herd, getting steers and heifers for the feed lot or shambles, but mated with a choice bunch of breeding females he might produce bulls that, finding their way into other herds, will produce sires, which in turn will get good steers or farmers' bulls, the influence of which will tend to justify a high price for the parent stock several generations back. In the beef world, the ultimate purpose of all breeding is a bullock, or a female from which to get feeding steers. A cow of the beef breeds may be worth \$10,000, but if she fails to breed she is not worth more than ten cents a pound at the most. Building lots in certain subdivisions have changed hands many times, and at each turn-over someone has usually made money, until the ultimate owner finds that the city is not coming that far for another half century and his land is worth forty dollars an acre, instead of forty dollars a foot frontage. So long as this shortage of meat and milk continues there will be high prices paid for sires and dams, but we should analyze the situation and remember that meat and milk are the foundation stones upon which to build our conception of values, just as land is worth about \$100 an acre for farming purposes. Even at reduced market prices for products of the packing house and dairy, the value of good breeding stock is not very much decreased, for then the farmer needs, more than ever, the good-doing steer and the economical, milk-producing cow, which are a combination of type and hereditary proclivities.

At the sales held in connection with the recent Exposition in Chicago, breeding stock sold at very handsome prices. One young Hereford bull went up to \$15,100, and other lots sold around \$5,000 and \$6,000. To be worth this amount of money an animal must be the kind that when mated with good cows he will get young bulls which will win in the show-ring and a few of which will sell around \$3,000 and \$4,000 each. The young sires thus sold will go to head commercial breeding herds that will probably produce farmers' bulls selling for \$150 to \$500 apiece. These young bulls, in turn, will sire steers and heifers for slaughter, and this is where the actual value of good blood or of good strains is determined. Let the feeding business lose its attraction for a time, or the production of milk prove an unprofitable enterprise, there will be a poor demand for bulls of all grades, which will dampen the ardor of the commercial breeder. As a result he will go to the professional breeder with a smaller cheque for a new herd header, and the man who has paid a great big price for a sire will awaken to the fact that something has occurred away down the line somewhere to influence his business. This is the gamut in the live-stock world, and those in the pure-bred fraternities often forget the ultimate purpose of all breeding operations and how much they depend on the general prosperity of those who have taken only the first degree.

At the International, a son of Whitehall Sultan was the senior champion Shorthorn bull, while the grand champion was by Sultan Supreme, by Double Dale, by Avondale, by Whitehall Sultan. It was remarkable how much of the winning stock in the Shorthorn classes were direct descendants of Whitehall Sultan. The winning Shorthorn fat steers were by Matchless Dale, by Avondale, by Whitehall Sultan. The grand champion fat bullock of the Exposition had Whitehall Sultan blood in his veins, mixed with championship Hereford blood on his sire's side. Such bulls as Whitehall Sultan, or Avondale his son, have been worth more to the Shorthorn cult than the price received for any bull at Chicago two weeks ago. The first-prize two-year-old bull was a grandson, and the second-prize winner a son, of Avondale. These two entries have changed hands within the last year for a sum approaching \$14,000.

Some farmers are using bulls that would not even make fair steers, leave alone producing good ones. A fair to good steer is easily worth ten dollars more than a poor one. The difference in price between the sires of poor steers and good ones would probably be \$100 to \$200. The difference in value between the commercial breeder's herd header, that will produce good bulls, and the sire that gets the poor or mediocre kind may amount to as much as \$500 or \$1,000. Then we come to the professional breeder's high-priced bull, that can win a championship and sire herd headers worth all the way

from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and what is he worth? These are only arbitrary prices used to illustrate the point we have in mind, but it is easy to see where the high-priced sire is justified, and how one is easily worth \$10,000 and another worse than useless. If farmers would eliminate the scrub grade bull and use one that would get good steers and heifers, the professional breeder would pay even more than he has paid for the best. In the auction ring at Chicago when a young bull was being bid up in the thousands of dollars, Pedro T. Pages, the Shorthorn judge from Argentina, said: "That is only the price of each leg." They have even a higher conception of values in the Argentine than we have in America. There are always boom times and periods of depression in almost any business, but few have lost any great amount of money by purchasing a good sire to mate with a correspondingly good herd.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

In the management of the wood-lot, the aim should be to secure a full stand of trees of high quality. Fortunately the quality of timber is very largely determined by the density of the stand. To be of high quality, timber must be, to a considerable proportion of its height, free of limbs, which are the cause of knots; it must be tall; and it must not decrease rapidly in diameter from the butt to the last log. In a dense stand of timber there is considerable competition among the individual trees for light, with the result that growth in height is increased, and such trees grow both taller and straighter than those which grow in more open situations. When trees are thus crowded, the sunlight does not reach the lower branches which soon die and become brittle, when they are broken off by the wind and snow. By this process trunks are formed which are free of limbs, and hence are of high quality. It is therefore evident that the trees in the wood-lot should be so crowded that the crown, or top, of each individual may be in contact with those of its nearest neighbors. When the proper density of stand is obtained, not only is more timber produced per acre but, as we have seen, the logs are of better quality, and this is of vital importance since the price of logs of first quality is from one and one-half to twice as much as that of logs of poor quality. Some idea of the number of trees to the acre which should be present when the stand is as thick as is desirable can be obtained from the following figures which apply to maple, beech, basswood, yellow birch, white pine and red pine:—When the trees vary from two to ten inches in diameter—1,000. When they vary from six to eighteen inches in diameter—250. When they vary from ten to twenty-four inches in diameter—125.

The question as to what species of trees are the most desirable depends upon several factors—the part of the country in which the wood-lot is situated, the nature of the soil, the market value of the timber and the rate of growth. Some species whose timber commands a high price are very slow in growth, while others of very rapid growth do not produce valuable timber, and it is better practice in the long run to grow species whose timber is of fair value and which make rapid growth rather than the more valuable species whose rate of growth is very slow. At the same time the fact must not be lost sight of that some of the slower growing species, whose wood is of particular value for farm purposes, should be taken care of in the wood-lot.

Of the trees, with timber of commercial value, which occur in the wood-lots of eastern Canada, Cottonwood is the fastest-growing, taking only from two to three years to grow an inch in diameter. Next in rapidity of growth come the White Pine, Red Pine, Black Walnut, White Ash, Red Oak and Black Oak, which take from four to seven years to gain an inch in diameter. Hickory, White Oak, Burr Oak, Basswood, and Paper Birch take from six to nine years to grow an inch; Red Spruce from eight to ten years; Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, Beech, White Elm, Hemlock, and Balsam take from nine to eighteen years to add an inch in diameter, and Cedar takes from eighteen to twenty-five years. From this data it is plain that when the production of lumber alone is considered the White Pine is the most desirable species, with the Red Pine, White Ash, Black Walnut (in southern Ontario), White Oak and Sugar Maple as second choices. Where, however, it is a supply of fuel that is aimed at, the hardwoods are the most desirable, as their fuel value is so much higher than that of the conifers. Highest of all in fuel value is Hickory, with 83 per cent., next White Oak with 74 per cent., Burr Oak with 74 per cent., Sugar Maple with 69 per cent., Red Oak with 66 per cent., Yellow Birch with 65 per cent., White Ash with 65 per cent., White Elm with 64 per cent., Black Ash with 62 per cent., and Red Maple with 61 per cent. Cottonwood is very low in fuel value with only 38 per cent., and lowest of all is Cedar, or as it is more correctly called, Arborvitae, with but 31 per cent.

Now that we have some general idea as to the most desirable species of trees to have in the wood-lot we can proceed to consider the best methods of management to apply to the lot. The method adopted depends upon the character of the wood-lot, as to whether it consists of trees of very unequal ages in which old trees dominate the stand, or of a stand of even-aged second growth. In the first case the old trees may almost totally exclude the younger growth or may exist as a few scattered individuals throughout the stand. Such trees are very likely to be deteriorating rapidly in quality, and should be cut out as quickly as is consistent with th

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