

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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LONDON, CANADA.

time and means of this country away from agri-
cultural, industrial and other pursuits to which it
should now be turned. It places us at the part-
ing of the ways. A proposition like that to
which we refer, thrown into the foreground, is a
sorry exhibition of the Gospel of Peace, the ad-
vent of which the people have just been celebra-
ting! It means the idealizing of force, arms, the law
of the jungle, and the beginnings of a militarism
under the frightful burdens of which the European
peoples are groaning for deliverance, and which
already has made too great inroads into the life
and resources of this Western continent. We mis-
take the spirit of the farmers or educationists of
Canada if they are to be deluded with the sop
of military grants for the training of male teach-
ers in the arts of bloodshed, or diverted from the
true objects of education.

The contention that it is designed to improve
the physique of the people, is a pretence that will
not bear examination. Ordinary physical drill
and fire-escape drill, hygienic exercises, manual
training, and school-gardening, will better ac-
complish the results desired. Keep clear of every
vestige of military flavor. The physical degener-
acy of the British people, as evidenced by the
thousands of rejections for unfitness of recruits for
the army in English cities and towns, has been
deplorable; but, as competent an authority as
Surgeon-General Evat, of the British Army, in a
notable address last year, put his finger right up-
on the root of the trouble in the vices and de-
moralizing habits of the youth, and the unsani-
tary conditions incident to the congested and ill-
nourished city populations, which military drill
and culture in the use of arms would not cure,
but from which we in Canada are as yet, in large
measure, happily free. To maintain and improve
rural conditions in Canada, so that a larger
population will find a competence upon the land,
the foundations must be laid in the public schools
along the lines of the new education which we
have been strenuously advocating in these pages,

and towards which the spirit and methods of
militarism stand in direct opposition. Our school
systems need reformation, but it is in the direc-
tion of the arts of peace, not in the arts of war.

CONSIDERATION FOR THE RURAL TELEPHONE
OPERATOR.

The introduction of the rural telephone has
brought to farmers' doors advantages with which
our readers in many sections are thoroughly fam-
iliar. It has developed, under their own direc-
tion, a form of public service independent of cor-
poration control, has reduced the bills for wear
and tear over bad roads, has facilitated the trans-
action of many items of farm business, and ex-
pedited the arrival of the doctor in many cases of
emergency. But it may develop a stay-at-home
tendency which is not good for the people. The
old-fashioned visiting day is for more than one
reason better than a habit of self-contained isola-
tion. And right at this point we have a com-
plaint from the chief operator of a leading rural
system in Ontario, who declares, after consider-
able experience, that nearly one-half the calls over
the lines are unnecessary, consisting of small
talk and "gossip," inconsequential chatter by
young people, all of which again and again inter-
feres with the course of legitimate and often ur-
gent calls. This abuse of the lines, with merely
frivolous conversations, our complainant points
out, is particularly troublesome on Sundays,
when, in all fairness, the operators should be
allowed greater relief from "calls." Much of
this unnecessary ringing up of "central" starts
when the instrument in the house is a novelty,
but this should soon wear away. A great deal
of it may be due to sheer thoughtlessness, but dis-
plays a sort of heartless and selfish disregard for
the closely-confined operator that people, in mak-
ing their New Year's resolves for 1908, should
decide to cut out. In its place, the rural tele-
phone is a useful servant, but it should not be
abused.

TIME FOR GUELPH TO WAKE UP.

That the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair should
remain at the Royal City, is the all but unani-
mous opinion among farmers and stockmen. Argu-
ments there are for its transference, the chief ones
being inferior and inadequate hotel accommoda-
tion, and the city council's reluctance to incur
expenditure.

Mr. R. E. Gunn made out quite an argument
last week for attempting to build up at Toronto
Junction, in connection with the live-stock mar-
ket there, a replica of the Chicago International.
This location would at least have the advantage
of being central. After all is said and done,
however, the fact remains that at Guelph the fat-
stock show proved more successful than anywhere
else in the former era of its peripatetic existence.
And the citizens have always striven to do well
by the Fair and Fair visitors in all respects ex-
cept civic financial aid. Guelph is a Scotch city,
and looks overclose at the bawbees.

The start has been made at Guelph for a splen-
did all-round winter fair; a nucleus has been
formed, and considerable initial expenditure under-
taken. Then, there is the most important argu-
ment that the Ontario Agricultural College is
there situate, and the College is not only an ad-
vantage in drawing attendance to the Fair, but
benefits in many ways by having the Fair so con-
venient. The Fair is a valuable privilege to the
students, as well as the professors, while it will
be universally admitted that the more farmers
that can be drawn to Guelph, to become incident-
ally familiar with the College, the better for the
institution, and for agriculture at large.

But if the fair is to remain, considerable ex-
penditure is required for enlargement. Who is to
put this up, the Government or the city, or both?
Some of the citizens of Guelph seem to want the
Provincial Government to do it all, but the Pro-
vincial Government has no license to do anything
of the kind, and, rather than see it held up in
that way, we should much prefer to forego such
advantages of location as Guelph offers, and re-
establish the Winter Fair elsewhere. At the
public meeting in the City Hall, during the Fair,
Hon. Col. Matheson, Provincial Treasurer, put
the matter up to the city in a fair light. "Make

your proposition, and we'll help you. Don't ask
us to do everything. The Government has de-
mands on its funds everywhere. If we built fair
buildings for you, would not other associations
have a right to demand similar things? Govern-
ment aid ought to be AID."

Guelph has no inalienable right to the Winter
Fair, and no right to demand that the Govern-
ment supply all the funds for her fair, any more
than Toronto would have a right to insist on
public money to defray all expenses of the Cana-
dian National. A fair of such scope is an ex-
cellent advertisement to a city, and helps to draw
trade. The exhibitions at Toronto, London, Ot-
tawa, Winnipeg, Halifax, and other points, are
regarded as good investments for the cities where
held, and locally supported on that assumption.
Guelph should regard the question in this light.

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

BONE SPAVIN.

Bone spavin is a very common cause of lameness
and unsoundness. In order to diagnose a bone spavin
when lameness is not present, it is necessary that a
person be a good judge of the different conformations
of hock, for a roughness that may be a spavin in one
horse may be merely a peculiarity of congenital con-
formation in another. A bone spavin may be defined
as an exostosis (a bony growth) on the hock, usually
appearing on the inner and lower portions of the an-
terior surface of the joint, but may be on any portion.

CAUSES.—Like ringbone, splint and other bone
diseases, bone spavin is usually, if not always, caused
by concussion. In this way inflammation is set up in
the cancellated tissue of some of the bones of the
joint. This extends and involves the compact tissue,
an exudate is thrown out, the articular cartilage is
destroyed, the exudate ossifies and unites two or more
bones of the joint together. It is often claimed that
spavin is the result of a kick or other injury, and
while it is possible such may be the case, it is very
improbable. There is usually a congenital or heredi-
tary predisposition, and where spavin is present, if the
progenitors of the horse for several generations can
be traced, it will generally be found that some of them
suffered from spavin. This predisposition may exist
simply in the conformation of the hock, weak hocks
being more liable than deep, broad and angular ones.
At the same time there is no conformation of hock
that can be said to be immune.

SYMPTOMS.—The typical symptoms of bone
spavin are characteristic, and diagnosis comparatively
easy. After standing for a greater or less time, the
horse, when asked to move—for instance, when asked to
stand over in the stall in the morning after being in
the stable all night—he will tread simply with the toe
of the affected limb, and move quite lame. If backed
out of the stall, he will step short and lame, and go
on the toe for a variable distance; in some cases for
a few steps only, in others for a few rods, or even
further, and then go practically, if not quite, sound,
and will continue to go sound until allowed to rest
for a few minutes or longer, after which he will start
off lame again. There is practically no heat or tender-
ness in the part, but there is usually an enlargement,
which can be noticed. In cases of suspected spavin, the
observer should observe both hocks closely. If an en-
largement of greater or less size can be noticed on the
hock of the lame leg (usually on the inner and lower
part of the front of the joint), and there is an ab-
sence of a like enlargement on the other hock, and the
characteristic lameness noted be present, there is no
difficulty in diagnosing spavin. Unfortunately, how-
ever, we do not always observe these definite signs.
The lameness does not always disappear upon exercise,
but in the majority of cases it decreases. Neither is
there always the well-marked enlargement. In other
cases there is a roughness resembling spavin on each
hock, which may be congenital conformation, and quite
within the region of soundness. In some cases, lame-
ness is present before any enlargement is noticeable; and
in some cases, especially when the true hock joint is
involved, there is permanent lameness, and no enlarge-
ment appears. This is called occult spavin, or blind
spavin, and the lameness is incurable, and its cause
hard to diagnose. It is not uncommon for a well-
marked spavin of large size to be present without
causing lameness at any stage. When spavin lameness
is suspected, but cannot be decidedly diagnosed, it is
good practice to get an assistant to hold the horse
on level ground or a floor, while the examiner lifts
the leg and forcibly flexes the hock for some time, say
a minute, and, as soon as he releases the limb, have
the assistant walk the horse straight ahead. This
will, in most cases, cause him to go quite lame, with
the characteristic lameness of spavin for a few steps;
but even this test is not always satisfactory, and in
cases where the typical symptoms are not well marked,
the examiner must judge by the general symptoms
shown, and the absence of apparent causes of lameness
in other parts of the limb. It will be noticed that
while there is little difficulty in diagnosing a typical
case of bone spavin, there are many cases in which
diagnosis is very difficult and requires a person of ex-