

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 or 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.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, space. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments 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 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 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. 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.

RENEWAL OFFER EXTENDED!

Thousands of our subscribers have taken advantage of this Special Renewal Offer, but some have written asking us to extend the date for a short time, so they will be able to secure the new subscriber.

We have decided to do this, and will make the offer good till Jan. 15th, 1911.

It is as follows:

For one new yearly subscription and your own renewal for 12 months, we will accept \$2.00. For each new name in addition to the first one we will accept from you \$1.00, the balance of 50 cents being retained by you as a commission. Or, if preferred, you may send in the new names, accompanied by the full subscription price of \$1.50 each (United States subscriptions \$2.50 per year), and take your choice of one of our splendid premiums. These, like the paper, are astonishingly good value.

NOTE.—This is a special offer, good only till Jan. 15, 1911. Speak to your neighbor to-day. Get his name before he has signed for other papers. Roll in the new names now.

From an official press abstract of railway statistics we glean the staggering fact that Federal, Provincial and municipal cash subsidies paid to our railroads by Canadian taxpayers up to date amount to \$200,753,063, but considerably valuable grants of 55,292,321 acres of land, of which 32,040,378 acres were alienated to the Dominion. In addition the grant of 100,000,000,000 30th amounted to \$127,336,357. The total mileage of the Dominion in 1910 was 10,000, 731 miles, not counting the Grand Trunk Pacific, which is officially regarded as a common carrier.

tion." Figuring the cash subsidies on this basis, it works out to an average of \$8,117 a mile. Add to this the land grants, worth possibly as much more, and the value of the country's credit pledged in security of bond issues, not to mention the franchises freely given, and it will be seen that we have been pretty liberal with our carrying corporations. Is it not about time we ceased handing railroads to hand over for corporations to own and administer?

Risks of Commercial Seed Oats.

In the report of a case under the Seed Control Act, at Sherbrooke, Quebec, Seed Commissioner G. H. Clark shows the risk run by farmers in buying commercial grain for seed purposes. In this case, an Alberta firm advertised on a printed form, in red typewriter type, oats "for seed, English Abundance, Early Swede, Banner," at 15 cents per bushel, f. o. b., Fort William. A local seed dealer in Sherbrooke, on this representation, ordered by telegram 1,200 bushels English Abundance seed oats. In due time the oats were delivered, the invoice reading, in part, "40,800 pounds seed oats, Abundance." Investigation revealed the information, from the records of the grain inspection at Fort William, that this car lot of so-called seed oats had been loaded out on the order of a prominent Winnipeg grain merchant, who put in a warehouse receipt to the Consolidated Elevator for 1 C. W. oats, to be shipped to the order of the Alberta company at the Quebec address. This car was taken from an ordinary bin of 1 C. W. oats, and specially cleaned by the usual screen of the Consolidated Elevator. The grain inspectors had no knowledge that it was wanted for seed, neither was anything said about its being English Abundance seed oats. Commercial grain contained in elevator bins at Fort William consists of mixtures of many kinds and varieties, and are often contaminated with noxious weed seeds. If grain for seedling is to be procured, it is not wise to defer purchasing until the last minute, and, for so all-important a purpose, improved and carefully-selected seed should be chosen, not ordinary commercial grain.

Home for the Holidays!

Home for the Christmas holidays! Not all our readers can appreciate the well-springs of meaning in that phrase. Many of them live at home, some on the ancestral steadings, others in the same or the next neighborhood. The majority have never dwelt for any length of time among strangers far from the family circle and the scenes of childhood's tribulations and joys. To them the ties of blood and early associations are all but unconscious, because so seldom tugged in the matter of course familiarity of every-day intercourse. Birth, marriage, sickness and death are about the only events which really discover to them the bonds of interest which knit one to another, and to the environment in which he was born and reared.

With the wanderer it is different. On him the cords of sentiment, slackened, perhaps, by long dissociation, draw strongly as he approaches home. What a wealth of color, variety and interest there is in any neighborhood when viewed with appreciative, and especially with reminiscent, eyes! Here is the old frame schoolhouse, with three high steps across the front, three windows on each side, a belfry on the roof at one end, and a chimney near the other. Out in front stand the old pair of willow trees, but they warp in the back yard has been levelled up. They are talking of having a school garden here next year. Already a row of trees has been planted along the front, and inside the school, it is said, new desks have been provided, new maps, and a school library. The old is being touched with the new, outside, the big pine stump on the knoll, where the baseball players reclined awaiting their turn at the bat, has been pulled or blasted out. The grounds have been improved, but, well, no doubt, the present generation of children like it better so, though it is hard to see how there could be any fun playing upon pump-poll away on these formal, well-kept, modern grounds.

Farther on is the church. "Do you remember," says the Parson to his brother, who has come to the station for him, "how we used to have to go to church with our red-greased, new top hats? It was a bad business, by telling how, when he was a boy, he had to go in homespun, it was hard to make other people that times, had seemed. Perhaps he was right, but he never let on. For us, it was a bad business, and a shame in

winter, and bare feet in summer." "Yes, I remember," replies the one who has stayed at home, "and what bothered me more than that was Brother Dixon's prayers, and Isaac Marcossion's long testimony in class-meeting. He used to unfold himself like one of those two-foot rulers, and as he was stretching out the last section, raising his head almost to the ceiling, he would draw out, 'Wa-a-a-i, I don't like to see the time wa-as-ted,' and then he would proceed to waste half an hour or so, while we boys sat back with gnawing stomachs, wondering how much longer it would be before he sat down. But times have changed. I don't know whether we're any less pious or not, but the sermons don't have so many 'fifthlys' and 'sixthlys', the prayers are shorter, and the class-meeting testimony seems to be more to the point. We're getting ready to build a new church. They're trying to raise ten thousand dollars, and the choir are agitating for a pipe-organ. If the price of cream keeps up, I guess we'll stand it."

"Hello, there's McPherson's new house. The only way we used to tell the house from the barn was the chimney. There's some style about this. And if they aren't trying to grow trees around it. Well, well, there's hope for the cause of forestry in this country yet. But it's a pity they planted them in rectangles and straight rows. Why couldn't they scatter them a little, and give things a natural effect, with vistas opening out between? Say, that's quite a barn they have, too. Farming's the job, after all. Here we poor fellows in the city have been slaving away making twenty-five hundred a year, and spending twenty-six. And here's Alex. McPherson sticking to the farm and clearing more in a year than I'm earning. Pshaw, what's the use? I guess I'll get hold of a few acres of land and raise fruit and chickens." Of course, he won't, but the inclination is wholesome.

So goes the conversation about this one who has prospered, that one who has married, and the other who has died, till the cutter pulls up at a brand-new residence that could give points on architecture to many a city house.

"Phew," he half whistles, half ejaculates. That's some change from what we used to have when I was home. I don't believe you could build a house like that in the city for three thousand, say nothing about the lot. By George, there must be a view from those south upstairs windows. I always admired that landscape, but I never could get a proper perspective past those trees, except when I was up shutting the small doors in the hay mow. My, what wouldn't a city man pay for a lot with a view like that?"

"Hello! Merry Christmas!" from several voices in unison at the door. Just in good time for dinner. The turkey's almost done. Such a turkey, and such dressing, and such mashed potatoes, and such cherry pie! If some city boarding-house keeper with a little gumption would only learn to cook things with one-quarter the flavor of these, her fortune would be made!

The inner man satisfied, the outer person has time to investigate further. "That's a fine grain paper," he remarks, approvingly, "and that border just sets it off right. Florence, I guess that course at Macdonald Institute did you good. These rooms look like an interior illustration from 'House Beautiful.'"

"We wanted a cheaper paper," mother confesses amiably, "but Florence would have this. They do have such fine schemes of decoration nowadays. The beauty of it is its simplicity. We had a great time here building this summer, and it has cost us more than we bargained on, but we do enjoy the house, now it's done. These polished floors, with the rugs in the center, are so easy to keep clean. You can take up the rugs whenever you like. But I think we enjoy the bath more than anything else. It is such a luxury, when you're dirty and tired, to get into a bath in a comfortable room, and turn on the hot water tap. I don't know what we'd do now without it." So it is all through the house. Talk about city conveniences. The city will be coming to the country for its models pretty soon. Think of it! Hot and cold soft water; drinking water on tap, supplied by a windmill; bathroom, closet, sewing room, library, furnace, polished floors, rugs, piano, telephone, cream separator, kitchen cabinet, shelves between dining room and kitchen; furnace and the whole built and furnished for \$3,000—not counting lumber and furnishings from the old house. A home like that in the city would cost at least six thousand, and a lawn like this front yard another thousand, easily. H'm!

At the barn it was the same story. A fine, well-lighted and partially ventilated cement block basement houses a fine herd of high-grade and pure-bred Holsteins, some of which, according to the cow records, ran ten thousand pounds of milk a year. Corn silage, with alfalfa and clover hay, has been substituted for the old-time diet of cornstalks and oat straw. There must be money in carrying on this plan. The pigs have not been very well stocked, but are beginning to fill again at anticipation of another period of low prices. The sheep barn has for years past been