

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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of the same variety. Another Seed Center Secretary outlined how twelve men in Haldimand Co., Ont., are making alfalfa history in Canada. These men are specializing in growing alfalfa seed, and from their Center this year ten separate and distinct bushel entries, all grading No. 1, were shown at the Guelph Winter Fair. The first year of operations they sold \$1,291.70 worth of seed at a cost of \$47.35, and they are introducing the hardest variety of seed known and are sure to boost alfalfa growing in Ontario, because northern-grown seed is best. What is possible with wheat and alfalfa is possible with oats, barley, peas, corn and all other farm crops. Get together. Organize seed centers with a few live, energetic members in each and help double the output from Canadian farms. There will always be a large number of men with dirty farms or specialists in other branches of agriculture and who desire good seed to make a sure market. Seed centers should cover the country.

Canada is not the only place where men have become surfeited with party politics, and draw a breath of relief with a respite from rabid party journalism. Fridtjof Nansen, the eminent traveller, author and geographical professor, in his recent book, "Through Siberia, the Land of the Future," describes an area where there were no newspapers and few could read them if they were printed. Then he naively adds: "I wondered, after all, whether this was as great a loss as people generally imagine. Think of all the mud they are spared, and all the dirty politics they don't have to touch."

A herd of 88 cows were bought and sent West, and they averaged over 1,100 lbs. of milk each in one month. How many herds of 8 cows average that in this country? How many know how much their herd averaged? Testing has done a great deal but it is only just begun.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

One of the serious insect pests with which the horticulturist has to contend with is the Codling Moth. The damage which is done to the apple crop of the United States is estimated at 12,000,000 dollars annually. I know of no estimates of the damage done in Canada, but it must run into a large sum of money. The eggs of the Codling Moth are laid upon the leaves or fruit. There are usually two broods of the insects, and consequently two egg-laying periods, in spring and in midsummer. The eggs hatch in from nine to eighteen days, and the larvae ("worms" "grubs") immediately hunt for the fruit, and boring into it spend from ten to thirty days feeding upon the seeds and the flesh around the core. At maturity the larvae emerge, chiefly at night and seek sheltered places, such as holes or cracks in the trees or ground, crevices under the bark, or refuges under boards or other litter, in which to spin their cocoons. Here they either pupate (that is spin their cocoons) at once, or if winter is near, pupation is postponed until the following spring. The adults fly mostly at night.

The orchardist in his fight against the Codling Moth has very valuable allies in the birds, the most efficient of these being the Woodpeckers and the Chickadees. These birds attack the insect when it is in the larval and cocoon stages, and the way in which the woodpeckers find these cocoons or larvae when hidden beneath the bark, is told in the following words by Isaac P. Trimble, an early American ornithologist, writing in 1865. "This little bird (the Downy Woodpecker)" finds the concealed larvae under the bark, not from any noise the insect makes; it is not the grub of a beetle having a boring habit and liable to make a sound that might betray its retreat, in seasons of the year when it is not torpid. A caterpillar makes scarcely an appreciable noise even when spinning its cocoon, and when it is finished it rests as quietly within it as an Egyptian mummy within its sarcophagus. There is no evidence that the Downy Woodpecker ever makes a mistake; it has some way of judging. The squirrel does not waste time in cracking an empty nut. There is no reason to believe that this bird ever makes holes through the bark scales merely for pastime or for any other purpose except for food. He knows before he begins that if he works through, just at that spot, he will find a dainty morsel at the bottom of it, as delicious to him as the meat of the nut is to the squirrel. But how does he know? By sounding—tap, tap, tap, just as the physician learns the condition of the lungs of his patient by what he calls percussion. Watch him. See how ever and anon he will stop in his quick motions up and down, and give a few taps upon the suspected scale, and then test another and another, until the right sound is communicated to that wonderful ear."

The examination of the stomachs of Downy Woodpeckers has confirmed observations in the field, and in some cases as many as twenty of the insects have been found in a single stomach. This species has also been seen to extract the larvae from growing apples, and to perform this operation without any serious injury to the fruit.

Other Woodpeckers besides the Downy feed upon the Codling Moth, for instance the Hairy Woodpecker, the Red-headed Woodpecker, and the Red-shafted Flicker.

Yet these are the birds which are so often regarded as destructive in the orchard and are frequently shot! Many of our birds need protection, but few of them need it worse than the Woodpeckers. They are misunderstood, and also offer an easy mark for shotgun or rifle or even a stone.

Next to the Woodpeckers the Chickadees are the most important enemies of the Codling Moth. Their habit of searching every nook and cranny, however small or difficult of access, and the thorough way in which they go over trees and stumps, enable them to find the favorite hibernating quarters of the larvae.

Practically every entomologist who has written on the subject substantially agrees with Slingerland "that the most efficient aids for man in controlling the Codling Moth are the birds," and it has been calculated from very careful observations that birds destroy from sixty to eighty-five per cent. of the hibernating larvae.

The Guelph Winter Fair was a great success. Those who missed it missed a treat, and all should have read our reports in last week's issue. No other paper went into such detail in report of lectures, live stock, etc. Also a comprehensive report was given in the same issue of the Maritime Winter Fair, and the great Toronto Junction Live-stock Show.

THE HORSE.

The Significance of Blood.

There is an undercurrent of information at every live-stock exhibition which some discover and others do not discern. A student of fair catalogues would have been impressed by the remarkable impression Baron's Pride has made on the Guelph Winter Fair. Although this wonderful Clydesdale sire never saw Canada his progeny is so thoroughly spread over this country as well as other lands where Clydes are popular that it would be almost impossible to have a really high-class exhibit of the breed without having somewhere in the class, and usually at the top, an offspring of Baron's Pride. No horse of any breed is so frequently referred to as sire and progenitor of show horses as this getter of good stock. The prepotency, or ability to stamp his character upon the progeny, of Baron's Pride is marked indeed, and nowhere has it been more in evidence than at the Provincial Winter Fair.

In the aged class of stallions (open) which was made up of eighteen entries five candidates were sired by Baron's Pride and one by Baron o' Buchlyvie, which is an offspring of the old horse. In the conclusion all the Baron's Pride colts were standing within the first eight, and one was first in the class. There were in the Clydesdale department open to imported or Canadian-bred horses four classes for stallions, and three of them were won by sons of Baron's Pride, while another was won by a son of Cedric's Baron, which traces back through Baron Hedderwick to Baron's Pride. The winner of the two-year-olds was a son of Baron's Pride, and was made champion of all the classes and considered the best horse, male or female, in the show. Again in the Canadian-bred classes the stock of Baron's Pride was prominent. For these Clydesdales there were five classes for stallions, and three of them were won by horses which traced back directly, usually in the second generation, to Baron's Pride. One class was won by a horse tracing back to Macgregor, and another by a horse tracing back to Prince Gallant, and Top Gallant. Through the entire Canadian-bred classes, speaking particularly of the male classes, the progeny of Baron's Pride wherever it appeared was usually in the money, and the winner of the yearling class, a Pride colt, received the championship of the Canadian-bred classes.

Baron's Pride, however, is not the only horse that has influenced the Clydesdale show-ring. There is Hiawatha, Macgregor, McQueen, Top Gallant and many such famous horses, but as time goes on people only begin to realize the importance of Baron's Pride.

There is a lesson in it, namely the significance of blood, and those countries which have paid most attention to it to keep it pure and undiluted have reared the best horses. Let Canadian breeders study the history and pedigree of the animals to which they breed, and use those that are likely to build up rather than tear down the standard of our live stock. Baron's Pride is not the only good sire in the horse world, there are many of them; but there are many more to be avoided, and in all kinds of breeding, as in horses, it is worth the breeder's time to acquaint himself with the standing of sires and dams that are before the public and patronize the kind that will maintain or improve the quality of the breed.

The Horse Situation in France.

We have just received the following letter from Gerald Powell, commission agent, formerly of Nogent Le Rotrou, France, and well-known to many importers of Percherons in this country. Mr. Powell is now in England, and writes thus: Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

"I left France some weeks ago, owing to no business being done in the importing line. Although I had several stallions and mares bought before the war broke out, I could not get permission to ship any of them out of the country. Among the horses I had bought, was "Lagor," the three-year-old grey that won first prize at the big Percheron Show at Nogent Le Rotrou, last July. One was for Messrs. Truman Bros., Bushnell, Illinois. When we shall get permission to export anything one cannot say. Some of the aged Percheron mares were taken for war purposes, but no stallions, and I understand that no mares of any breed will be allowed to leave France for five years hence, but this news is not official."

"As regards stallions they will not be affected by the war, as the Germans never got anywhere near the Perche district. The French Government bought about forty stallions last week for their Government Stables. Of course France will not take any of their best pedigreed stock of any breed for war purposes. Nearly all the prominent breeders in the Perche district are on (service militaire) and many of the young ones have been killed in action, amongst them Monsieur Jules Thibault (son-in-law of Monsieur Leon Moulin),