

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE
AND HOME MAGAZINE.
THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
MCINTYRE BLOCK, MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON, ENGLAND, OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Fitzalan House,
Strand, London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

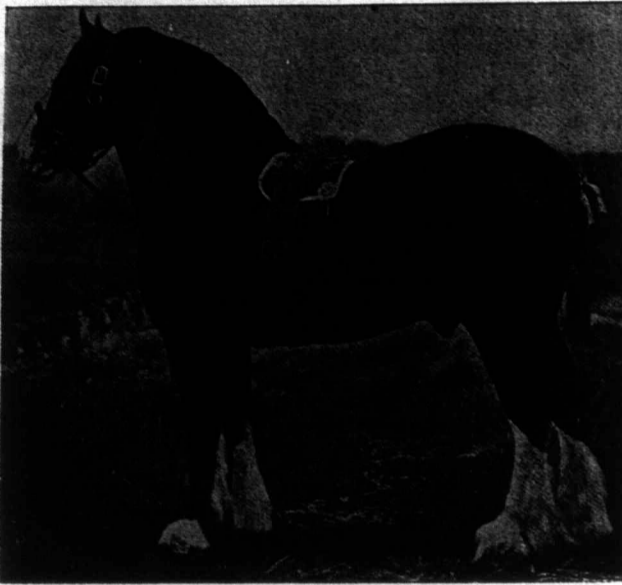
1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscriptions, 6s. or \$1.50. New subscriptions can commence with any month.
3. ADVERTISING RATES—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. DISCONTINUANCES—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post-card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrearages must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.
5. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearages must be made as required by law.
6. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearages are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
7. REMITTANCES should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.
8. ALWAYS GIVE THE NAME of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.
9. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
10. SUBSCRIBERS failing to receive their paper promptly and regularly will confer a favor by reporting the fact at once.
11. NO ANONYMOUS communications or enquiries will receive attention.
12. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
13. 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 Advocate, 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.
14. 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 CO.,
LONDON, CANADA.

be found anywhere in the world. All the principal mutton breeds do well with us. There is no class of farm stock the raising and care of which requires so little labor or expense as this inoffensive and unpretentious money-maker. Sheep will live in summer largely upon pickings in the lanes and by-places of the farm, and will eat many of the weeds which infest the pastures, and thus help to clean the farm and keep it clean. No stock is so little affected by protracted drouths—they prefer a short nibble, and thrive better in a dry season than in a wet one when feed is over-flush. The fleece of wool—a volunteer crop, which never fails—which no other farm stock yields, and which is perennial during the life of the animal, amply pays for its winter's keep even when liberally fed, and anywhere from fifty to one hundred per cent. of an annual increase from the ewes may reasonably be expected, and with a little care and good management, may be realized. We doubt if any other investment in farming will pay as liberal dividends as those semi-annually declared by a well-bred and well-cared-for flock of sheep. There is generally a good steady demand for mutton sheep or lambs in the meat market at all seasons of the year, at good paying prices, considering the cost of production; while the demand for breeding stock for improving and replenishing the flocks on the farms and in the range territories of Canada and the United States is such as to make it decidedly profitable to cater to that trade, and Canadian farmers are peculiarly well situated for taking advantage of the increasing trade in this line which is bound to come our way. Many United States flockmasters look to Canada for rams for the improvement of their flocks, knowing from experience that sheep bred and raised in our climatic conditions possess the requisite stamina and quality to improve the stock they are brought into contact with, and they will continue to come here for fresh blood. The Americans are fast becoming a mutton-eating people, and it is hard to understand why the same cannot be

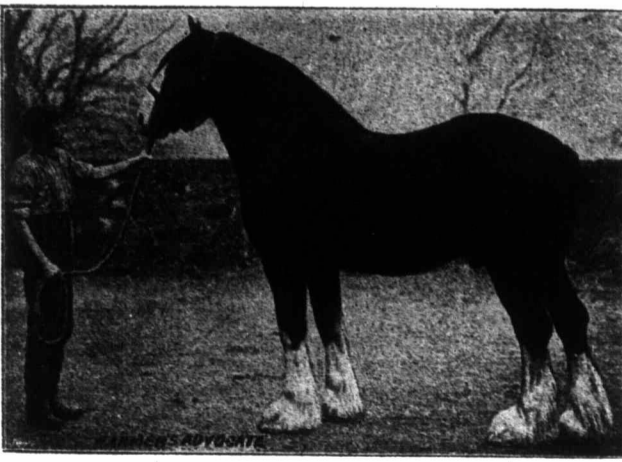
said of our own people, for there is certainly no more wholesome meat that can be placed upon our tables. Lamb is rapidly growing in favor as an article of diet, and brings highly remunerative prices, considering its cost of production, and gives quick returns to the producer; and we may look for a steady increase in this trade, in sympathy with the prevailing preference for young meat in all lines.

While it is true that the quality of our best breeding flocks has been well maintained, thanks to the skill and pluck of the breeders of pure-bred flocks, who have nobly held the fort through times of depression without adventitious aid from outside sources, while kindred industries have been boomed by Government agencies and aided by special favors at the public expense, yet it is also true, as we have intimated, that sheep are being



BARON'S PRIDE (9122).
The most successful Clydesdale sire of the day.

neglected by a very large proportion of our farmers, we believe to their own direct loss. There are few farms in the Dominion on which a small flock could not be profitably maintained. The expense of starting a flock on a small scale is very moderate, and may soon be repaid by the sale of surplus stock, while by retaining the best of the young females and purchasing, at intervals of two years, a new ram, which may often be sold at the end of his term of service for nearly if not quite the original cost, a flock can in a very few years be built up and maintained to the profit and satisfaction of the owner. We know many farmers who find their little flock of good grade sheep the most profitable asset on their farms; and from our extended experience and observation, we feel safe in counselling the keeping of more sheep by the



HIAWATHA (10067).
Clydesdale stallion. Winner of the male championship at the Highland Society's Show, 1899.

farmers of Canada, believing, as we do, that this is a field in which our people can continue to excel. The best season in all the year to buy sheep for a foundation flock, or to replenish, is in the early autumn, when the lambs have been weaned and the ewes are generally in good condition. If deferred to a later period, breeders will, as a rule, have sold what they intended to dispose of, and have reduced their flocks to the number they aim to keep through the winter, and will then only sell for tempting prices, if they consent to sell at all. Those who buy early generally get the best selections. The sheep pens at the fairs this fall will be of more than ordinary interest, as the indications are that the number and quality of exhibits will exceed that of any year in the past, and we anticipate an unusual amount of business in that department both at the exhibitions and afterwards.

Lessons from a Season's Scant Pastures.

An expensive, but perhaps profitable, lesson has been taught a great many dairymen and stockmen in south-western and central Ontario during the last two months of drought. Pastures have become so completely parched, except in moist valleys, that dairy cows that were not fed a supplemental ration have dropped one-half or more in their milk flow and have failed seriously in flesh. This has been costly experience: first, because of the immediate loss of milk while dairy products are selling well, and, second, because a man dislikes to have to apologize to a visitor for the appearance of his cows; and he also realizes what it means to have winter overtake the stock in thin condition. Young stock, including steers intended for the fall market, have not only ceased to gain, but in many cases have fallen off in flesh more than several weeks' good feeding will recover.

In order to prevent this semi-starvation and its effects where no special provision for supplemental feeding was made, men have dipped heavily into their hay and other winter feed, which will have a pinching effect throughout the coming season, or mean the disposal of some of the stock.

It is often argued that at least partial soiling is most profitable in any season; and perhaps it is under certain circumstances; but the question of extra labor, etc., has to be reckoned with.

Where one has considerable suitable pasture land that in ordinary seasons will answer general requirements, the extra crop should be chosen that can be turned to good account in the winter season if it is not used before. Whether it be green oats, tares, corn or millet, the crop can be made into winter feed, which, if fed at that season, will save hay to sell or feed to extra stock bought in. These foods are frequently grown and are probably well enough, but, according to our observation and the testimony of those who have given it a trial, a summer silo filled with corn is away in advance of any other provision. We could name probably a score of thorough farmers who have sworn by ensilage for winter feed for many years who think just as much of the summer silo as they do of the winter supply, and we find these men preparing for both these seasons at this season of the year. While it may answer in a measure to fill the one large silo extra full, or feed from it lightly enough in winter to leave some silage over for summer feeding, it is a much better plan to put up a silo of smaller superficial dimensions, especially for feeding in warm weather, when a greater depth requires to be taken off each day to prevent waste or undue acidity. In the case of a square silo the necessary conditions can be met by putting a wall through the center. Under ordinary conditions we find the greatest satisfaction from the use of a special round stave silo, 9 or 10 feet in diameter, and 18 to 24 feet high. This can be cheaply and quickly put up any time previous to filling time, and if its contents are not needed next summer, the silage will be none the worse for being held over for one or two seasons. In fact, it is not uncommon on some farms for the silo not to be entirely emptied for several years in succession. Now is the time to prepare for next summer's drought, which preparation need not be lost in any case, and will, in all probability, prove to be the most profitable outlay on the farm, while for economy of time and convenience of feeding, ensilage largely discounts any other system of soiling stock.

Dominion Agricultural Statistics.

As announced by an Ottawa correspondent in our last issue, Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, has promised to undertake during the coming year a much-needed reform in the collection of Dominion agricultural statistics. As Senator Ferguson very forcefully pointed out in discussing this subject during the late session of Parliament, successive Ministers of Agriculture have promised to deal with this subject, but it seems only after another failed to accomplish anything. Accurate statistics promptly collected and issued regarding crop prospects, and yields of grains, fruits, etc., and condition and numbers of live stock in all the various Provinces, along with information as to foreign requirements, would be of very great service in connection with the marketing of products. It would also tend to bring the scattered Provinces of the Dominion still more closely into touch with one another. At present, apart from the census every ten years, about all that is done is to publish annually a Statistical Yearbook, in which crop reports are reprinted from provincial