

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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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.
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apples then on hand, owing to dull market during the winter, accounts for the slight modification. Make allowance for an extra favorable season, but take into account the fact that high wages were paid to men inexperienced in orchard work, that the spraying and other work could be improved upon by experienced men, and that many extra expenses were entailed incident to long-distance management, and astonishment must be expressed at the showing made. Yet these results have been duplicated and even surpassed by others. It is just a case of good culture and management. There are gold mines in our orchards. Why let them lie unworked?

Long-delayed Justice.

Ontario sheep-breeders are congratulating themselves that Mr. Bowyer's bill to amend the dog-tax and sheep-protection act has become law. It passed the third reading without opposition, though a stiff fight against it had been put up in committee. The amount of tax to be paid by the owner of one dog remains the same as before, \$1.00, but for each additional dog owned, possessed or harbored by him, \$2.00 yearly has to be paid. The fee for bitches is increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00, and, if more than one is kept, \$5.00 must be paid for each one additional. A spayed bitch is to be taxed at the same rate as a dog, upon producing proof in writing from a veterinary surgeon that it has been spayed. But much more important changes in the existing Act were made by simply repealing certain clauses. Formerly, upon the petition of 25 ratepayers, any municipal council might declare the law inoperative, and even where dog taxes were levied it was permissible to apply the money received from this source to other purposes than first paying sheep-owners for losses by dogs. These qualifying clauses of the old Act are by the new one repealed, and all municipal councils are in future obliged to collect dog taxes, and payment for sheep killed by dogs is to be a first charge on such funds.

In fair play to sheep-owners, such amendments should have been made long ago.

Forty Dollars' Profit Per Acre from Hill-sides.

Many hundred thousand acres of clay hillsides in Canada are worked for a return which, after deducting value of labor and manure, hardly leaves interest and taxes on the land. Most of these hillsides, where not springy, and not too steep for haymaking, could be easily made to yield \$40 clear profit per annum; that is, where there is not an excessive area on a farm.

Such land is ideal for growing alfalfa. Once a good catch is secured, it may usually be counted on, with proper management, to remain for ten to twenty years or longer on these hard-clay slopes, though not on the knoll-tops or loamy places; on these it is liable, in a few years, to be winter-killed, or crowded out by grass. But about nine times out of ten a clay hillside, if seeded under favorable conditions as to tilth and freedom from grass or weeds, will be good for, say, 15 years. The harder the clay is, the better, but, remember, you want good surface, as well as subsoil drainage.

Now, such a stand will produce, as a rule, three cuttings a year, aggregating not less than five tons of cured hay per annum. That hay is the choicest made upon Canadian farms. Horses will often leave oats for it. Cows milk on it as on no other feed, especially when added to a ration of silage. Sheep, pigs and poultry relish and thrive upon it. Here is the chemist's explanation of its virtue:

	Digest- ible pro- tein. p. c.	Digest- ible carbo- hydrates. p. c.	Digest- ible ether extract. p. c.
Wheat bran	12.2	39.2	2.7
Alfalfa hay	11.0	39.6	1.2

This shows that alfalfa hay contains nine-tenths as much protein as bran, and practically as much of the elements that produce heat, fat and energy. Make allowance for the greater percentage of crude fibre it contains, and for the fact that one may not always expect to cure it in first-class condition. Say it is worth three-quarters as much per ton as wheat bran for feeding along with corn silage and other carbonaceous roughage. That would be \$15 a ton. At that rate, five tons per acre would be worth \$75. Twenty dollars would easily pay for the harvesting of the crop. Five dollars would more than pay rent and taxes, and five to ten dollars set aside for several years would soon recoup the original cost of seeding down, as well as the risk of failure in securing a catch. That leaves forty to forty-five dollars clear profit per annum.

Now, this is no fairy tale. It has been and can be done. But, of course, a good deal depends upon how one uses the hay. An animal fed on alfalfa alone will not likely return fifteen dollars per ton of hay consumed, any more than one fed on bran alone would return twenty dollars per ton for that feed. But most farm rations are deficient in protein. Many feeders buy bran and other proteid concentrates to supply the lack. It is good economy to do so, but better economy to grow one's own protein in the form of alfalfa and clover. The stockman or dairyman who will grow ten to twenty acres of alfalfa a year, and feed the hay judiciously in moderate quantities to good stock, along with corn silage or fodder, can make it worth fifteen dollars a ton as a substitute for bran. If he does not, it will be the fault of the curing, the feeding, or the animals. Alfalfa is the greatest bonanza we have in field husbandry. The acreage should be increased tenfold.

The standing field-crop competition is a capital idea. Almost any farmer with a good farming mill can prepare a passable exhibition sample of threshed grain, but the standing-crop competition lays stress on the essential features of good farming and grain-growing. This is the sphere in which emulation should be stimulated. Then, by encouraging the exhibition of sheaves and seed grain from the winning fields at the leading fairs, the scheme is carried through to its logical conclusion. Go in for the field-crop competition if your agricultural society is holding one. If it is not, persuade it to provide for one.

What Ails the Canadian Hen?

Nothing, except that she is not numerous enough. The trouble is with her owners, and the middlemen who handle her products. We plume ourselves on being a great agricultural country, and yet Canada had to fall back on Russia for eggs this season, just as New York City did on Austria and Germany. Last year Canada imported 583,270 dozen eggs more than she exported. Think of it! Importing eggs from Russia, China, Japan, and over a million dozens from the United States, in all, 1,136,120 dozens, while we exported only 552,850. Eggs from the peasant poultry-yards of despised Russia, laid down in Canada at 22 cents per dozen, while our city and townspeople were clamoring for the "strictly fresh" home-laid article at 35 and 40 cents per dozen. And yet, on the most conservative estimate, any self-respecting hen will pay her owner \$1 clear profit for eggs alone, over the cost of feeding, every year. So far as returns per dollars' worth of feed is concerned, she is the most profitable stock the farmer produces. Prof. F. C. Elford, of the Macdonald College, figures out, from the last census data, that the profits from the Canadian hen amount to 239 per cent., as compared with 95 per cent. from milk cows, 88 per cent. apples and other fruit, and wheat 31 per cent. It is estimated that there are about 25,000,000 head of poultry altogether in Canada, or only 35 per farm, whereas there should be at least over 60,000,000 birds, which, on the basis of \$1 per hen profit for eggs alone, would yield the enormous sum of over \$60,000,000 per year in profits to the farms of the country. Not bad for "Biddy"! There is no manufacturing business in the country which in magnitude approaches the egg and poultry trade. The demand for eggs is immense, and it is increasing, and will increase still faster, because of the multitude of ways in which they are now used, and because of the advancing cost of other foods.

That Canada should be an egg-importing country, when she ought to be exporting millions of dozens, is deplorable. Enough eggs are wasted every year through bad methods in Canada to take the place of all we have to import. Two remedies for this condition of things are in sight: First, keep more good hens on the farm, and give them better care; second, stop the frightful wastes that prevail under the present system of marketing eggs. The statement has been frequently made that what is wasted on many Canadian farms would keep in comfort the larger families that live on many farms like those of Denmark, France, Sweden and Germany, and we believe it is not far from the truth, taking the egg business as a sample. All farms and all districts are not alike, for many are managing their egg business well, but they suffer through having to take lower prices, which are scaled down to make up the losses from the bad and indifferent. On too many farms eggs are not gathered regularly every day, they are not kept clean, they are wet, roosters are allowed to run with the flock the whole year round; eggs are kept too long exposed, sometimes to excessive heat or cold; they are sold to itinerant peddlers, or traded at the corner grocery; they are carelessly handled, and, as stated by John A. Gunn, of Gunns Limited, Toronto, and Gunn-Langlois, of Montreal (two of the largest and most reliable concerns in the packing-house and produce business in Canada), competition is so keen, especially in Ontario, that buyers are afraid to reject inferior or bad eggs for fear of losing customers, so everything goes. There are Canadian firms that bury enough bad eggs every year to buy the best farm in the counties where they are located. A careful estimate, made for the United States Department of Agriculture, shows that "dirties," "mouldy and bad flavors," "breakages," "chick development," "held eggs," and "rotten," total up 17 per cent. of a loss. In Canada, Mr. Gunn says about half (8 per cent.) of this is an absolute loss, and there are also additional losses through the cost of buying and carriage of all this trash. Figured at 18 cents per dozen, and allowing 5 cents per dozen off the remaining 9 per cent., the total loss amounts to the enormous sum of \$1,850,000 per year, which could and ought to be saved to the farmers of Canada! The Gunns have been in the business 40 years, and