

The Farmer's Advocate HOME MAGAZINE.

LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
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.

2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties,
handsonely illustrated with original engravings, and fur-
nishes the most practical, reliable and profitable informa-
tion for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and
home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

3. 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.

4. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line,
agate. Contract rates furnished on application.

5. 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.

6. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held
responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper
ordered to be discontinued.

7. 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.

8. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your
subscription is paid.

9. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In
every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must
be Given."

10. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent
Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

11. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on
one side of the paper only.

12. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change
of address should give the old as well as the new P. O.
address.

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, Sugges-
tions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and
Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or
Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experi-
ments 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 con-
nected 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.

published, and market quotations in each case are
for the Monday previous to these dates.

Year.	Date.	Price quoted per cwt.
1908.....	September	\$7.00
1908.....	October 1st	6.75
1908.....	October 15th	6.40
1908.....	October 22nd	6.25
1908.....	October 29th	6.15
1908.....	November 5th	6.00
1908.....	November 12th	6.00
1908.....	November 19th	6.25
1909.....	September 23rd	8.65
1909.....	September 30th	8.50
1909.....	October 7th	8.00
1909.....	October 14th	7.75
1909.....	October 21st	7.75
1909.....	October 28th	7.75
1910.....	September 29th	9.10
1910.....	October 6th	8.85
1910.....	October 13th	8.50
1910.....	October 20th	8.10
1910.....	October 27th	7.60
1910.....	November 3rd	7.25
1910.....	November 10th	7.10
1910.....	November 17th	7.10
1911.....	September 14th	7.85
1911.....	September 21st	7.50
1911.....	September 28th	7.10
1911.....	October 5th	6.80
1911.....	October 12th	6.40
1911.....	October 19th	6.25
1911.....	October 26th	6.25
1911.....	November 2nd	6.15
1911.....	November 9th	6.40
1912.....	September 26th	8.65
1912.....	October 3rd	8.75
1912.....	October 10th	8.75
1912.....	October 17th	8.35
1912.....	October 24th	8.50
1912.....	October 31st	9.10

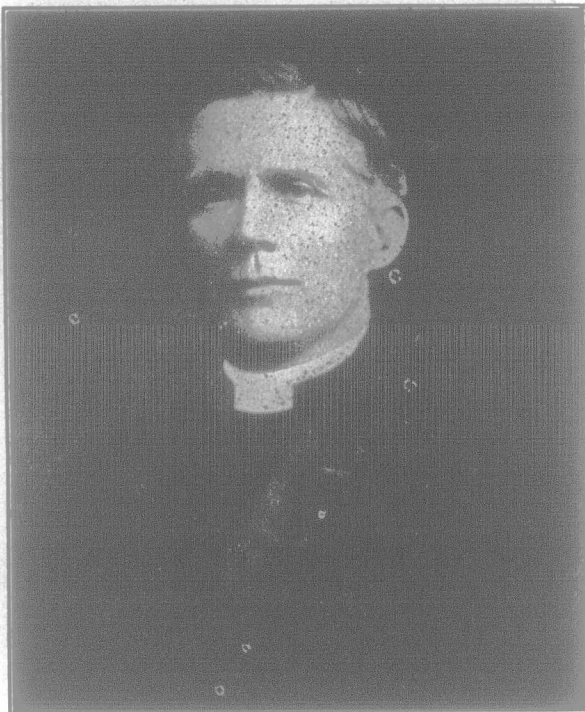
With the exception of 1912 the drop is yearly
well marked, and in that year there was a decline
early in the month. These figures are illuminat-
ing and will bear study. Whoever or whatever
is responsible for the annual October marked de-
cline, it comes. "Trying hard to keep prices
down" may be a potent factor in the decline.

Farmer's Son and University President.

A farmer's son, Rev. Dr. Richard P. Bowles,
has been installed as President and Chancellor of
Victoria University, Toronto, in succession to
Rev. Dr. Burwash. His attitude towards agri-
culture is disclosed in the following excerpt from
a discriminating appreciation written by W. A.
Craick, published in The Christian Guardian:

"Dr. Bowles is still a loyal son of the soil
and next to his chosen calling he would prefer to
be a farmer. 'I love to see things grow,' he
says. 'Nothing interests me more than to watch
nature at its wonderful work. I am heart and
soul with the farmer, and always take the farm-
er's side in any question. When I see the price
of produce advance and the cost of living going
up I say, 'Good for the farmer; let him have all
he can get, he had a hard time of it for years.'
Yet I can't understand how, when he is beginning
to make progress, he should want to leave the
farm. It is a painful subject to me, and it is
affecting the church too.

"The problem of the rural church is a serious
one, and a very difficult one to cope with. What
with the decrease in rural population, and the
lack of men to take hold, it is becoming most
disheartening. I talk to the boys in my classes
about it often, but talking will not do much
good. What is needed is a scientific study of the
rural community, the gathering of facts and
figures, the classification of the people and a de-
termination to find a solution.



Rev. Richard P. Bowles, M.A., D.D., LL.D.

The new head of Victoria University, Toronto.

"Still, I am just as much interested in farming
as ever. Would you believe it, I take 'The
Farmer's Advocate' and get the bulletins from
the Department of Agriculture regularly? What's
more, I read them, and I find them delicious
reading, just as good as a novel. I am not in-
terested in live stock, but in horticulture, the
growth of crops and all that, I take pleasure. It
all tends to keep my feet on the earth and make
me sympathetic towards the farmer and his side
of things.' It is to such a man as this, then—
gifted preacher, inspired educator, and nature-
lover—that the destinies of Victoria have been en-
trusted. He enters upon his new duties with a
due sense of their importance."

That a son of the farm should become head of
a great university may not be remarkable, for it
is rather in the natural order. But it is of
doubly re-assuring significance that he possess a
sound survey of life and that the fragrance of the
soil, the breath of the country, and its free,
breadth of view should invest one called to the
high duty of training men who are to be the
Christian prophets of a new day. He was the
son of the late George Bowles, of Irish descent,
and a stalwart farmer of stirring worth in the
famous but to many unspellable Chinguacousy
Township, Peel Co., Ont., a man of marked in-
tellectual equipment which with added advantages
descended to the son. Of judicial poise, singu-
larly un-self-centred and of ripened scholarship,

Dr. Bowles would himself probably regard as a
minor asset the alphabetical toggery of degrees
unless squarely earned and conferring or confirm-
ing the capacity to discern, to do and to inspire.
Happily the auguries in his case all point to the
possession of these gifts, and that in the future
of this great university of Canadian meth-
odism he will become another in the
long list of distinguished men who have
shared in making the higher life of Canada. That
he sees in the rural problem one of the greatest
and most complex of the times, we may gather
from its suggestion of the need of a compre-
hensive and scientific study of the conditions tend-
ing to the decline of rural population. Such an
inquiry "The Farmer's Advocate" believes would
disclose economic, social and educational in-
fluences at work, some of them entrenched in
state policies; others rooted in mistaken, mis-
chievous and sordid ideals to replace which the
pulpit, the press, the home and the school need
re-adjust their powerful forces. The public may
be confident that the new head of Victoria Uni-
versity, holding the convictions which he does,
will make effective use of the greater opportuni-
ties now his in this institution, and among the
student body with whose destinies he has been
wisely entrusted.

Nature's Diary*

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

The muskrat is now busy building its winter
lodges in the marshes and along the slow-flowing
streams. These dome-shaped houses are usually
constructed with a foundation of sods and a
superstructure of cat-tails, rushes and sedges.

The chamber in which the muskrats live is in
the centre of this pile and above the water-line,
while the exit is below the water.

The way in which the muskrats build their
houses varies a good deal in different years, and
the well-known observer, John Burroughs, was of
the opinion that this animal had some means of
knowing what kind of weather was impending.
He says: "I am more than half persuaded that
the muskrat is a wise little animal, and that on
the subject of weather especially he possesses
some secret that I should be glad to know. In
the fall of 1878 I noticed that he built unusually
high and massive nests. I noticed them in sev-
eral different localities. In a shallow, sluggish
pond by the roadside, which I used to pass daily
in my walk, two nests were in process of con-
struction throughout the month of November.
The builders worked only at night, and I could
see each day that the work had visibly advanced.
When there was a slight skim of ice over the
pond, this was broken up about the nests, with
trails through it in different directions where the
material had been brought. As they emerged
from the pond they gradually assumed the shape
of a miniature mountain, very bold and steep on
the south side, and running down a long, gentle
grade to the surface of the water on the north.
One could see that the little architect hauled all
his material up this easy slope, and thrust it out
boldly around the other side. Every mouthful
was distinctly defined. After they were about
two feet or more above the water, I expected
each day to see that the finishing stroke had been
given and the work brought to a close. But
higher still, said the builder." This winter pro-
ved to be one of exceptionally high water. In the
fall of 1879 he noticed that the muskrats were
extremely tardy in beginning their houses, and
the succeeding winter was a very mild one. In
1880 they began their lodges very early, and
worked very hard, and the winter was both early
and severe.

"Shall we not say, then," says Burroughs,
"in view of the above facts, that this little crea-
ture is weatherwise? The hitting of the mark
twice might be mere good luck, but three bulls-
eyes in succession is not a mere coincidence, it is
a proof of skill."

The muskrat does not use its lodge as a nur-
sery in which to raise its family. For this pur-
pose it makes use of a hole in the bank, and here
three litters are reared in the season. All
through the summer the young muskrats live with
their parents, but in the fall the young start out,
either alone or in small parties, to seek out a
home of their own.

The muskrat's rubbery tail is a very useful ap-
pendage, as not only does it act as a rudder
while swimming and as a support when sitting
up on land, but it is also used as a means of
sounding the danger signal. When a muskrat is
alarmed it brings its tail down on the surface of