

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Thursday (52 issues per year). It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
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9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.
11. 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.
12. 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.

LETTERS FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS TELL US:

1. That the "Farmer's Advocate" is the most useful farmer's paper published in America.
2. That it is the most attractive.
3. That it pays to take it.
4. That its matter is high-class, its illustrations instructive, and its paper a pleasure to handle.
5. That many of our subscribers are keeping the "Advocate" with the intention of having it bound in volumes for reference.
6. That the women are as much interested in it as the men.
7. That our subscribers cannot see how we can give so much for the money.

We are glad to hear these things, and assure our readers that we are determined that the "Farmer's Advocate" shall retain its position as the best farmer's paper published, REGARDLESS OF EXPENSE. We ask the readers of the Home Department to help in spreading the circulation of the "Advocate" by talking about it to their friends, and getting them to subscribe. Our paper is not a cheap affair, like so many others that drift through the country and get burned up for kindling. Nevertheless, it costs the subscriber a little less than 3¢ a week. Surely no one would grudge that for the "Farmer's Advocate."

gain weight faster than any other stock without grain. And, again, the consumption of lamb in our growing towns and cities is rapidly increasing, so that a profitable market for all that is likely to be raised is assured.

In no country in the world are the conditions more favorable for sheep raising than in Canada. Our dry climate suits them admirably, and they fear not the cold winters if given the most ordinary shelter. Nowhere are sheep more free from common or epidemic diseases or pests of any kind, and nowhere can a greater variety of suitable foods be more successfully and cheaply grown. No great outlay is required to found a flock. Pure-bred sheep may be purchased at moderate prices, and a half dozen ewes will soon breed a good flock if the female produce is retained, while good grades may be had at little more than mutton price, and these bred to a pure-bred ram will rapidly improve. And the care needed by sheep is such that the average farmer and his boys can readily learn to manage a flock. It is incomprehensible, that in a country where all the conditions for sheep-raising are so favorable the business has been so neglected in late years, but it is gratifying to find that there are encouraging evidences of a revival of interest in this branch of stock-raising.

Everybody Delighted.

John Young, Huron Co., Ont., writes: As the old year is gone and a new year with us, which reminds me that my subscription for the "Farmer's Advocate" is due, please find enclosed money order for the same, as I don't want to miss a single copy. I think it is the cheapest and best farmers' paper printed. I thought it cheap at \$1.00 for twenty-four copies, but now as you say 52 copies for \$1.50 it is a grand chance for any person to get so much information and good reading for so little an outlay. Wishing you every success in the new undertaking.

Jessie Matthews, Prince W., P. E. I., writes: I was determined to get you a new subscriber before I wrote. I take a good many papers, but think the "Farmer's Advocate" the best and cheapest. As long as I have the money I shall take the "Advocate."

F. Fitzrandolph, Annapolis Co., Nova Scotia, writes: I like the "Farmer's Advocate" very much, and am pleased to think that you can send it weekly for the small sum you ask.

Frank Hitchcock, New York State, writes: I wish to thank you very kindly for the painstaking effort you put forth, and succeed in publishing a paper which in my opinion ranks among the highest. I enjoy it very much, and am very pleased that it is to be a weekly from this on.

Thomas Williamson, Huron Co., Ont., says: I have been taking the "Farmer's Advocate" for a number of years, and I think it is the best farmers' paper that can be got.

Geo. S. Docker, Kent Co., Ont.: I have been a subscriber to your paper since the second year of publication, and have been well satisfied with it.

H. M. Vasey, N. Westminster, B.C.: I was very pleased to hear of your turning the "Farmer's Advocate" into a weekly paper, and am certain your efforts to make it an up-to-date weekly will be appreciated by all true lovers of the farm. Wishing you success and the compliments of the season.

Wm. C. Clark, Fairfield East, Ontario, writes: I am sure if every one who scratched the face of mother earth for a living knew the worth of the "Farmer's Advocate" they would not be without it.

E. L. Lutz, King's Co., Nova Scotia: I send for renewal and one new subscriber to the "Advocate" for 1904. Would say that I consider the "Farmer's Advocate" the best farm paper published in North America, and I would not care to be without it. Thanking you for your generous dealings.

M. V. Miller, Bruce Co., Ont., says: I am pleased to know that the farmers of our fair Dominion will have the pleasure of receiving a weekly copy of your valuable paper. No farmer or tiller of the soil should be without it. Wishing you every success in your new enterprise.

THE BEST.

John J. Preston, Bruce Co., Ont., writes: I think that the "Farmer's Advocate" may be justly considered the best farm journal in Canada to-day, and I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

FILLS A LONG-FELT WANT.

Thomas Richardson, Carleton Co., Ont., writes: I would say that the publication of your paper will fill a long-felt want of a weekly agricultural paper, devoted to the interests of the farming community in general. With best wishes for success in the venture.

BETTER NOW.

J. L. Andrews, Renfrew Co., writes: I was glad when I heard it was to be a weekly, as my family used to think it a long time between issues. Hoping you may have every success with your paper on account of change.

MARVELLOUS.

John Raymond, King's Co., N. B., writes: The Christmas number, I think, was a marvellous production, and when I show it to my neighbors hope to succeed in sending you some more names. Wishing you success in your new departure, I remain a constant reader.

Give the Address.

Some of our readers are overlooking the rule that all communications and questions for answers must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer. This is imperative. We cannot undertake to deal with enquiries that are frivolous or which may not be genuine. We gladly expend large sums to furnish our readers with trustworthy information, and do not require the names for publication, but merely as a guarantee of good faith.

HORSES.

Horses in Canada.

The different breeds or classes of horses for which Canada is noted are the heavy draft, carriage, saddler, hunter, and road horse. Let us briefly consider how these classes have been, are, and can be improved. I speak of these as classes rather than breeds, as few Canadian farmers own pure-bred mares, hence, cannot produce horses eligible for registration in the various studbooks. In the various Provinces of our Dominion the production of pure-bred horses is largely confined to large breeding farms, and not attempted to any considerable extent by the ordinary farmer.

OUR DRAFT HORSES were produced by the importation of different breeds of draft sires from various countries, as the Clydesdale from Scotland, the Shire and Suffolk from England, and the Percheron from France. In most parts of Canada the produce of the Clydesdale or Shire out of our Canadian mares has given the best results. In some places where it is required to move loads of considerable weight at a fast pace, the Percheron is used as a sire. Where the cross is not too violent, or, in other words, when the mare is not too small, the produce of the Clydesdale or Shire is usually a fairly good draft animal, and after three or four crosses is typical. Clydesdales and Shires have been imported to Canada for many years, the number of the former far exceeding that of the latter. Even comparatively young men will notice a great difference between the animals of these breeds that are imported to-day and those of a few years ago. At one time size and weight were the main consideration. The stallions were very massive, many with upright shoulders, short and upright pasterns, beefy legs, with an abundance of coarse and often wavy hair, and in other respects showing coarseness. It became evident to both Scotchman and Englishman that something more than size was required, and that animals of the type mentioned were clumsy movers, and their feet especially would not stand work on hard streets or roads; hence, they began to breed with the idea of producing quality, even though it might be to a certain extent at the expense of weight. The typical and fashionable Clydesdale or Shire of to-day is a horse of considerable quality, oblique shoulders, clean, hard, flinty bone, with straight fine feather, a pastern of medium length and considerable obliquity, and free, easy and comparatively light action, both while walking and trotting. He must have a well-sprung rib of fair length, deep girth and moderately broad and well-muscled breast. His back and loins short