

The Farmer's Advocate

HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE 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. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and 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.
 2. 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.
 3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
 4. 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.
 5. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
 6. 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.
 7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
 8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In every case the "Full Name and Post-office Address Must be Given."
 9. WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.
 10. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
 11. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address.
 12. 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 Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," 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.
 13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed, as below, and not to individual connected with the paper.
- Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

The Place of Wheat.

While fall wheat is no longer the chief grain crop on Western and Central Ontario farms, it still deserves a place. Supposing the grain is not to be sold, it is still capable of giving a good account of itself as feed, being particularly valuable for poultry and hogs. Pound for pound it compares very favorably with spring grain, as do the yields when weight is considered. On very rolling or hard-clay lands, where spring grain is often affected by drouth and consequent baking of the ground, wheat frequently outyields oats or barley in hundred-weights of threshed grain. It also furnishes a much greater bulk of straw for bedding, and, as a crop with which to seed down clover and timothy, it is much superior even to barley. This applies particularly to the timothy seeding, which seldom fails when sown in the autumn with wheat on a properly prepared field. Since the securing of good catches of clover and grass seeds is of the essence of importance in building up a farm, the value of fall wheat as a nurse crop is not easily over-emphasized. Then, too, as a means of reducing the rush of spring work, fall-wheat culture on a minor scale deserves attention. And what better use can be made of the summer's accumulation of manure? Still, another sound argument is the old maxim about not putting all the eggs into one basket. This applies particularly in the case of the man of limited resources. It is, too, more interesting to have something green and growing during the late months of the season than to look out across a farm with all but the meadows bare and sere, and those not any too fresh.

As the King of Crops, wheat has been long since deposed from its position in Ontario agriculture. No more is it the great object towards which all the manure and the chief resources in tillage are applied. Being a good "wheat farmer" does not signify what it did once. Wheat now occupies a place of minor prominence on most farms, but is still a profitable crop to grow in a small way, and a ten-acre field of it rounds out nicely the plan of a hundred-acre farm.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

As midsummer passes there is a very noticeable change in the habitats, in which we find the greatest abundance of flowers. Early in the season we find most of the flowers in the woods, particularly on fairly open-wooded banks. A little later we find many in the fields. But now our greatest floral display is to be seen in damp places—in swales and along the borders of streams.

In spring the moist borders of water-courses are practically devoid of flowers, now they are grown up with a rank growth of tall-growing plants. Among the most prominent of these are the Joe-Pye weed, with its large terminal bunch of light purplish flowers, the Boneset, with large clusters of white blossoms, the swamp milkweed, conspicuous for its handsome deep pink flowers, the blue vervain, with its spike of blue flowers, the Spotted Jewelweed, with its attractively-shaped, orange blossoms, and the Water Hemlock. Among these tall plants we find smaller species, such as the Monkey Flower, the Blue Lobelia, the Cardinal Flower—one of the most brilliantly-colored blossoms in our flora, the Loose-strife, the Wild Mint, the Bedstraw, and many others.

The Water Hemlock is a plant with somewhat the aspect of a carrot which has been allowed to go to seed, and having a reddish brown stem. It is one of the most poisonous plants found in Canada, being fatal to both man and cattle. The roots are especially dangerous, because they have an aromatic taste suggesting horseradish or parsnips, which sometimes leads children to eat them. Cattle often eat the tubers, and in marshes they are sometimes poisoned by drinking water contaminated by the juice of the roots which have been crushed by being trampled upon.

The symptoms of poisoning by Water Hemlock are vomiting, colicky pains, staggering, unconsciousness, and convulsions.

The safeguards against poisoning by this plant are to pull up such plants as grow near dwellings



Leaf of Water Hemlock.



Monkey Flower.

where children are likely to get hold of them, and to keep cattle out of swampy places where it is abundant.

The Bedstraws are peculiar little plants with their weak sprawling stems, armed with backward pointing prickles, by means of which they clamber over other plants. The flowers of the Bedstraws are small and whitish in color.

The blossom of the Monkey Flower is a very attractive one. It is of rather unusual shape, as may be seen from our illustration. The corolla is two-lipped, the upper lip being reflexed (bent backwards) and the lower lip three-lobed and spreading. It is violet-blue in color.

The birds are nearly all silent now as August is moulting time. All our birds moult once a year, and many of them have one complete moult and one partial moult every year. However the spring moult is not as universal as it would appear to be, judging by the very changed appearance many of our birds present in the spring as compared with their appearance when they leave us in the fall. What really takes place in many cases is this: The feathers which grow out after the fall moult have tips of quite a different color from the rest of the feather. During the winter this tip, which is mechanically weaker than the rest of the feather, wears off, thus leaving the plumage of a totally different color.

Though most of our birds have now passed their season of song, there is one which still sings steadily on—the Red-eyed Vireo. From the tree-tops, through all the hottest days comes his song: "Vireo, Vireo, I am Vireo, Vireo, Vireo, I am Vireo."

The Red-eyed Vireo, is so named because the iris of its eye is red in adult specimens. In the young birds it is of the usual brown color, found in most of the smaller birds. The name Vireo comes from the Latin "I grow green," from the prevailing greenish hue of the species belonging to this genus.

The Red-eyed Vireo is olive-green above, with an ashy crown, edged on each side with a blackish line, and below this a white stripe. The under parts are white, faintly shaded with greenish-yellow along the sides. It is about six inches in length.

A light in an unscreened window in August attracts a great number of insects which one will hardly see in any other way. Moths of many species arrive, some of them very beautifully colored. One group of moths which is sure to have representatives is known as the Underwings, from the fact that the hinder wings, which are underneath when the moth is at rest are brilliantly-colored in red and black or orange and black, while the upper wings are grayish.

Among the beetles which are likely to be attracted to the light are a couple of rather peculiar-looking species—the Stag Beetle, with its long incurved mandibles (jaws) which resemble horns, and the Eyed Elater with the two eye-like spots on the thorax (the middle division of the insect's body). These spots are, of course, not the real eyes, which are situated on the head in the usual position.

THE HORSE.

The drafter steadily gains in popularity.

Canadian-bred classes were strong at western shows this year. This is commendable. Home-bred stock is the kind to prove our place in horse breeding.

Edison has said that the horse is the poorest motor ever built. Whether or not this is correct, he fills a place which none other has yet been able to do.

Teach the horse to stand properly before he enters the show ring. He must know ring manners before he competes, else his chances of winning are somewhat lessened.

Do not wean the colt too early. Flies are bad yet, and it would be better, in many cases, to let the youngster suck a month longer than the usual period, than to wean him a month too soon.

One thing worth remembering in breeding horses is that the draft horse is the horse for city streets. It requires weight to move loads on pavements.

Clean, neat appointments add much to the attractiveness of a horse on exhibition. All bridles, halters, harness, and vehicles should be sound, clean, well-polished, and such as will aid the horse to win rather than spoil his chances.

A good horse is always much admired. Never in the history of the summer exhibitions of western Canada has the horse held such sway as during the present season. A good horse show is a "splendid attraction" for most people.

The weather for harvesting the hay and oat crops has been good in most sections this year, and the horses of this country will not be forced to eat so much bleached and dusty hay, and so many musty and sprouted oats as resulted from the 1912 harvest.

A good horse is never a bad color. This is proven to one's complete satisfaction when looking over Charnock, the oddly-marked Clydesdale stallion which won several first prizes and championships in the West this season. He is a truly wonderful colt.

It is generally believed that colts do better when two or more run together in field or box stall. If only one has been raised on the farm this season, it might prove profitable to buy another good one to run with him after weaning. They would be company for each other, and, if bought right, a profit might be made on the purchased youngster.

Let the man who is showing a horse remember that no loafing can possibly be tolerated. It is necessary that he shows his horse to best advantage all the while the judges are deliberating. Keep the horse standing well on all fours and alert, and when asked to show at the walk and trot be ready. Walk the horse steadily straight away from the judges and straight back, and then do the same at the trot. Do not hurry the horse. Keep cool. Do not let him prance, but get him accustomed to showing a steady walk with a good, long, even stride. Do not turn him too short at the ends, and, when asked to trot, the draft horse should not be speeded up like a trotter. Give him time, and let him show to best advantage what he can do. Getting him excited does no good. Quietness but firmness is necessary. Action counts much. Do not detract from a good horse by faulty handling.