

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday, (24 issues per year.) 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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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 great markets 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 on 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 flock-masters 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 the 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 neglected by a very large proportion of our farmers, we believe to the extent of direct loss. There are few farms in the Dominion on which a small flock could not profitably be 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 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 intend 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 at the exhibitions, as well as before and afterwards. Firm in its faith in the profitability of a flock of sheep judiciously managed, "The Farmer's Advocate," in the last two years, has devoted more attention to the sheep industry than any other journal of its class that we know, having published illustrated historical and descriptive notes on all the principal British breeds, together with practical letters from experienced breeders and feeders, showing the excess of profits to be derived from a flock of sheep, as compared with that from other classes of stock, cost of maintenance considered. We shall continue to keep the claims of the sheep prominently before our readers, firmly believing that, by so doing, we are acting in the best interest of the Canadian farmer.

The Bugbear Danger of American Inter-course.

The puerile fabrications lately circulated by sections of the American press, to the effect that grave concern was being felt in this country over the tapping of the Canadian West by the Hill lines, hardly disturb the most lurid imagination. The Canadian Federation does not rest on so fragile a basis that a commercial highway will dismember it. We already have many lines connecting various portions of the Dominion with the commercial arteries of the Republic, and no disintegrating influence is noticeable as a result. The settlement of Northern Ontario, too, is filling up the gap which formerly constituted our chief geographical weakness, and the increasing prosperity which we are experiencing, and which additional railroad competition will help to augment, will do more to bind the Canadian Provinces together with ties of contentment and harmony than any slight diversion of trade to a latitudinal course can possibly counteract. In exclusiveness, narrowness and unneighborliness, rather than in open-handedness and expansion, does national danger lie.

The Boers shut themselves up, and preferred to have nothing to do with the outside world. They minded their own business, but they wanted to monopolize a certain portion of the globe which they called theirs. Exclusiveness was their undoing. Providence never intended that any people should be permitted to occupy a section of the globe containing mineral or other resources, and squat down and hold it after a dog-in-the-manger fashion. It is a law of sociological evolution that no man shall be permitted to live unto himself. Nor shall a nation. Any which tries it is bound to be engulfed.

If the Boers failed to live within themselves, much less could we, who are subjected to the ab-

sorptive influence of an aggressive rival. Communication is too easy, exchange of thought too general, and the North-American mind is too liberal to sanction any attempt by a community within its area to settle into tortoise-shell existence. The surest way to dismember our Confederation would be for the older Provinces to try to hold the West in leading strings. The surest way to cement the national structure is to make a broad national and even international outlook on all questions, and seek by economic facilities to promote the general good.

The British Empire has been built up and held by the liberality with which the outlying dependencies have been governed. When Britain opens a country, it is opened to the world. Other European powers failed in their colonizing enterprises because of the tightness with which they gripped their colonies, and because of the jealous efforts to preserve each piece of territory for almost exclusive exploitation by their own traders. It would spell disaster to the race if such a policy could accomplish its design.

The part that we Canadians will play in the destiny of this continent, whether as a portion of the Empire, as an independent nation or as parcel of an ultimate North American commonwealth, as Goldwin Smith would have it, will depend in a large degree upon our magnanimity and progressiveness. Enemies are those who would throttle our development and brake the wheels of progress. Not thrift and industry, nor honor and moral virtue, could avail to preserve the Canadian people and place us to the front, unless with these qualities were combined a desire to make the most of the country's material resources, and this ambition can tolerate no hickering fear over the setting of a few million dollars' worth of trade north and south. Give us the railway connection, and let our United States friends do the worrying. Among the greatest bulwarks of a nation are a vital religion, a broad education, moral virtue of inhabitants, and a wide-open door for enterprise, knowledge and light. If this is true to-day, much more will it be in the coming era, when national differences will be settled by international arbitration. Then, not military or naval strength, not money nor self-sufficiency, but such qualities as liberality of mind, progressiveness, justice and liberty will prevail, dominant in the adjustment of difficulties, where now they are influential.

What About the Public's Vested Rights?

Railway companies operating in Ontario have been ordered to submit to the Railway Commission within ninety days a new schedule of rates to the East and import points. It is to be hoped the Commission will regulate out of existence the unfair discrimination which handicaps Western Ontario, as compared with Michigan traffic, and which grossly overcharges many districts where rival competition has not forced a reduction of rates. The public are yearly becoming less awed by the familiar corporation plea of "vested rights," and are beginning to enquire whether they have not a few rights of their own which it would be well to "vest."

If there is anyone who is entitled to a good, comfortable home, the farmer is surely that one. The home is what the farmer exists to create, and the farm is for ministering to the home. The home does not exist for the farm, and is not to be subordinate to it, as some seem to think — [E. W. Taylor.]

"Man alone on the prairie," says "The Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, "is at best a poor thing, incomplete, and practically homeless as long as he is wireless." Moral: If you must go West, young man, take a wire with you.

Labels are not infallible, and generally speaking, those who place away their splendid livestock expectations do their best to make it consistent.

Beware of the dog that barks at our boots coated, church-going, and to our who, in a gaudy tin suit, is the calf chicken.