

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

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ADDRESS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

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change from two-horse to four-horse facilities, but the farsighted farmer has not been so very hard pinched, and now that things are becoming more thoroughly adjusted to the newer scales of wages, employers are surprised to find themselves actually better off than before. The labor problem, by hastening the adoption of improved methods, is working out to be a distinct boon to farmers, as well as farm laborers. It is raising the average of accomplishment on the farm, thereby enhancing the wages earned and elevating the level of farm work, farm profits and farm life.

Yet it is surprising how prone we are to make advances piecemeal. One would think the lesson of the past decade had been impressed with sufficient force to make us all anxious to economize labor to the fullest possible extent. One would think every enterprising farmer would desire, at least, to double the earning power of every day's labor applied to the land. But, strange as it appears, many have imposed new handicaps upon themselves by half-way measures, stocking up with implements only a little more efficient than the ones discarded. This means that before long another sacrifice must be made, by discarding these and purchasing others still faster. The day of the two-horse team for ordinary farm operations is rightly regarded as past, but the man who discards two-horse implements, only to take up with the three-horse outfit, is making a costly mistake. This is the four-horse age.

The prices prevailing for farm products of nearly every description at the present time should serve to make farmers wear the smile that stays, and to render them serenely satisfied with their calling and conditions. Surrounded with plenty of the good things of life, and receiving good value for their surplus, they certainly have no reason to envy the dwellers in town who are paying the ruling prices for food supplies.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

THE SITUATION AS TO FRUIT.

Without any doubt, the past season has been a peculiar one in its relation to many of the products of the soil, but especially as regards fruits. Hopefully, every fruitman in the Dominion saw the trees of his plantation burst into profuse bloom in the spring; less hopefully did he observe the fixing of the fruit itself, and, after infinite pains and a care altogether worthy of better things, were these hopes, long entertained, of a fair return, at least, when the packing season came round, blasted by the September gales, which strewed the country with immature apples, useless for any commercial or culinary purpose, whilst still colder winds and snowfalls encompassed the remnant ultimately in ruin. Apply the disgust and disappointment which must have seized upon the vinters of the Niagara Peninsula, a few weeks ago, when their bountiful crop of grapes was attacked by severe frosts and destroyed in a night, they being helpless to save it, to the fruitmen of Canada, and you have the feeling which is uppermost in most places at the present moment.

And still there are sections which rejoice in a bumper crop. The great Valley of Annapolis, in Nova Scotia, from the days of the gentle Acadian famous for its apple production, this year, while all the rest of Canada is pinched for fruit, rejoices in the best harvest in its history. It is a grand thing to have a big crop any year; it is a doubly satisfactory condition when the whole market is your own, and, as a consequence, prices are at your placing.

"Many of the fruit-growers of Nova Scotia are, this year," writes Chief McNeill to us recently, "netting from one to three hundred dollars per acre off their orchards. This will pay them if they do not have another crop for five years, but the chances are that they will have from fifty to one hundred and fifty dollars per year regularly. I have just returned from a trip through the Valley, and have not visited a single well-kept orchard where the profits are not extraordinarily large. Prince Edward Island can do just as well, and there is no reason why they should not share in this industry."

Well, whilst we are not envious of our sister Province by any means, and whilst we would not throw all the dollars they are pocketing over our shoulder, either, we are not in the fruit circle this year, have not been for several years back, and are perhaps a little cool and unsympathetic on the fruit situation generally. We have no fruit to sell—not enough for ourselves—and, as we are a Province of apple-eaters, we will be forced to inflict even more of our dollars on our friends across the Straits for even what will furnish the requisite sauce for the Christmas goose. What is the matter with us? We don't exactly know. It is only the weather prophets that know it all, and the sort of article they provided this spring, especially in pollination time, was not calculated to inure to the perfecting of fruit. True, in some sheltered places—a proof of the disadvantages of denudation of the forest—there is a good catch of apples reported; but the cold, damp, mist-laden days of May, where such protection failed, blotted out conclusively fruit prospects, so far as the pomifers were concerned, at least. We may do better next season; we must not be cast down. Indeed, Mr. McNeill writes, exhorting us, on the very data above given, to go into great plantings here, as we stand to profit by horticulture more than anything else in sight.

Without doubt, we want co-operation here before fruit-growing can be intelligently and profitably prosecuted. We all know this, but we are not all so completely convinced as to the quality of co-operation we need. Some pooh-pooh the very thought of general co-operation until we get great stretches of fruit trees in bearing, as great as the orange groves of California. We are not of this class. The same tactics obtained when we attempted co-operative dairying. "Oh, let us wait until we improve our herds," the unprogressive cried out at every corner. We made the plunge; it has been decidedly for the better; many have improved their herds under competition who would otherwise never have known what they had. So will it be with the fruit. Let us

only get on to a mutual agreement to raise and sell fruit under the same favoring conditions, and the industry will go ahead with leaps and bounds. We want to equip the whole co-operation circle—buy the stock, plant it, spray it, gather the apples, pack them, ship them, sell them that are fit to sell after ciding, evaporating, and jamming the refuse, and give the money that is in them to whoever owns it. They are doing this everywhere else; Nova Scotia has adopted this plan, and is prospering under it as she deserves.

"Co-operate first," says the Chief, "in buying stock. Get your committees struck at the annual meeting of your association. Take orders for stock, and send them to reliable houses. Get the trees in; the rest will follow." We are not so sure about that. Planting is no doubt commencing at the bottom, and all industries must be well planted; but there is organization needed, to co-ordinate in the produce of what we already have and turn it to some profit, otherwise a proper spirit cannot be breathed into things. If that were done, we believe the planting would quickly look after itself. Then, what of the nursery competition? In any case, the department formally charged with the encouragement and extension of horticulture should take some practical steps to bring about whatever co-operation is deemed requisite in the premises. They did it with dairying; the fruit business is important enough to engage their serious attention now.

The New Brunswick apple crop is small, but of late years they have shown that they can grow good fruit and improve it to a paying basis. The Province is large and the fruit sections widely separated. They want paternal treatment, too. Organized Ontario can do without much direction of the primary sort; indeed, it resents the over-officiousness of Dominion experts. British Columbia is organized on the American plan, and with American co-operation, whether for woe or for weal. Let the Division devote more time, then, to the Maritime Provinces, where the people look for assistance, and where it is likely to be fraught with great good. The holding of National Councils biennially, at least at Ottawa, and the overseeing of the packing-houses, will be about all the great Provinces will exact federally. This fruit interest is an immense thing; it wants systematizing badly. Let the parties formally intrusted with the work by the nation get busy, and, even in such adverse years as this, Nova Scotia will not alone be gathering in the shekels.

A. E. BURKE.

HORSES.

LAMENESS IN HORSES.

RINGBONE.

Ringbone is a term applied to a bony deposit situated between the fetlock and coffin joints. The deposit may encircle the whole limb, or may be noticeable only on one or both sides, or in front only, but is called ringbone in all cases.

Ringbone is of two kinds, true and false. False ringbone is an exostosis (a bony growth) on the bone between the fetlock and pastern joint, but does not involve either joint, and does not cause lameness except in very rare cases, when it is very large. Some consider that it does not constitute unsoundness, but, as there is a danger of the growth extending and involving the joint, we think a horse affected should be considered unsound.

True ringbone is one in which either the coffin or pastern joint, or both, are involved. When the coffin joint is diseased, it is called low ringbone, and when the pastern is the seat, high ringbone. By involving the articulations, these cause more or less acute, obstinate, and, in some cases, incurable lameness. Ringbones, whether high or low, vary greatly in size, but the degree of lameness is not by any means indicated by the size. An animal with but a small deposit may go very lame, while another with a large growth may show little lameness.

Causes.—In most cases there is an hereditary predisposition, and if the pedigree of the animal affected can be traced back for several generations, it will generally be found that an ancestor more or less remote suffered from the disease. It is usually caused by simple concussion during progression. By this means inflammation is set up in the inner (called the cancellated tissue) structure of the bone. This extends and involves the outer structure (called the compact tissue); an exudate is thrown out which becomes converted