

THE FARMERS ADVOCATE AND 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, \$2.80 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, agents. 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. 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 any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Dr. Sloan deplures, and rightly so, the small proportion—about one-thirtieth of the total provincial and federal taxation—applied to education. He further points out that Nova Scotia contributes about \$14,000,000 to federal and \$1,000,000 to provincial taxation, and of these vast sums wrung from a comparatively poor people, numbering only half a million, less than half a million dollars is used on education. He appeals that the time has come for redress and redistribution in justice to the older provinces. Whether redress should come from federal subsidy or by a lightening of federal taxation and consequent increase of ability to pay directly levied municipal taxes is another question.

The Farmer's Credit.

Lack of capital is responsible for much of the poor farming, poor live stock, and poor equipment found on American farms at the present time. Modern methods of improved agriculture mean more capital. The high price of farm lands calls for more intensive methods, but this means the investment of more capital. Tile drainage, improved live stock, new buildings, silos, and improved farm machinery mean more capital. The investment in the land is only the beginning of the outlay in capital necessary for the equipment and operation of a modern farm. The above statement is made by Professor H. C. Price, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Ohio State University. He says further: "The last census shows that the total investment of American farmers in land, buildings, live stock, and equipment is over forty billion dollars. The best statistics and estimates combined show that their indebtedness on this investment is over six billion dollars or about one-seventh of their total worth. While American railroads, manufacturers and merchants pay 4 1/2 to 6 per cent. for their borrowed capital and German and French farmers 4 to 5 per cent., American farmers pay 6 to 8 per cent. on their borrowed capital. On the average the rate of interest paid is at least 2 per cent. more than it would be under a well organized credit system. This would mean an annual saving of \$120,000,000 of interest, or the equivalent of an annual saving of \$20 per farm for each of the 6,000,000

farms in the United States." Professor Price argues that farmers should organize themselves on a co-operative basis, as is done in the European countries. There the agricultural credit institutions are managed by farmers and are under the direct control of the government.

Twelve Solid Reasons Why.

EVERY FARMER SHOULD BE A READER OF
THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND
HOME MAGAZINE.

1st—Shrewd business men do not limit themselves to newspapers, however good, but subscribe also to journals devoted to their own enterprises. The farmer, fighting his battle single-handed, more than any other class of men, needs such a journal.

2nd—The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine has stood the test of Time for over forty-six years, and stuck to its text, "Persevere and Succeed." It is still on the job.

3rd—Standing independent of parties, factions, sects and trusts, The Farmer's Advocate digs out the truth. There is safety for the farmer in publicity.

4th—To be really successful, the farmer must be a broad man. The Farmer's Advocate is not restricted to one special branch of husbandry, but covers all departments, giving the cream of information about each, together with reliable market reports.

5th—The editors and contributors of The Farmer's Advocate are farmers or persons with actual experience in farming, live-stock rearing, dairying, horticulture, poultry-raising, bee-keeping and other departments. They are not kid-glove editors living in city sky-scrapers.

6th—Over 3,000 enquiries answered yearly, free of charge, in the "Questions and Answers" department of The Farmer's Advocate, by a staff of experts.

7th—Three large cameras are regularly in use by the staff, and over \$2,000 per year expended in photography and illustrations, for the profit and pleasure of The Farmer's Advocate readers.

8th—The Farmer's Advocate keeps its readers in touch with all the latest and most reliable records of Experiment Stations, Agricultural Colleges and other institutions of research.

9th—The Home Magazine department of The Farmer's Advocate, covering Life, Art, Literature, Fashions, Education and every interest of Domestic Life, for seniors and juniors, is in charge of a regular editor and competent associates, and in quality is without an equal in the Empire.

10th—Printed every week on high-class book paper, it has won its place of supremacy as the best weekly for the farm and all its interests. No matter how small the farm, the best paper is none too good. In a single year The Farmer's Advocate contains over 2,000 pages of the most valuable matter. Many readers have preserved their copies for a generation.

11th—The rigidly selected advertising pages are full of information about things needed on the farm or in the home, enabling readers to make a wise selection among many good things.

12th—The Farmer's Advocate pioneers the way, establishing demonstration apple orchards and a demonstration farm, on which to determine the best ways of doing things, the returns, and the cost. These undertakings are entirely at the service of its readers.

To sum up—The Farmer's Advocate caters to intelligence and everywhere intelligence wins. In the extent, variety and excellence of its service, The Farmer's Advocate is without a peer, and at the regular subscription price of \$1.50 per year cannot be duplicated.

Team When You Can't Plow.

The advantage of good roads does not all appear upon the surface. There are many indirect benefits, such as the opportunity of reaching high markets during the periodical seasons of bad roads and the privilege of teaming when farm work is impossible. We are reminded of this latter point by our own experience. Weldwood is situated along a good county road, part of which has been recently improved. During the present very wet and trying summer, when for weeks together only an occasional day's work could be done upon the fields, we employed men and horses to advantage hauling building material. Nearly a hundred loads were thus laid down on days when otherwise the teams would have stood idle. Had we been obliged to defer the teaming until fine weather it would have had to be hired or left undone. Of course it doesn't do the road any good to draw heavy loads over it just after a rain, but the injury was not very apparent and was nothing compared to the advantage to us of utilizing time in this way. To be able to gravel when you can't plow is worth some tax-money.

Aid Towards Maintenance of County Roads.

Accumulating experience emphasizes more and more strongly that the real good-roads problem is maintenance rather than construction. This is particularly true in our climate, with its deep winter frosts and heavy autumn precipitation. No perfect road-surfacing material has yet been invented, even for city streets, where cost is not so serious a factor as on country roads. Now, with anything but a perfect surface coat, resting on a perfectly drained roadbed, maintenance must always be of supreme importance. The first flaw developing opens the way to rapid disintegration and the road soon goes from bad to worse. All over Eastern Canada we may see this exemplified. Stone roads have been built at a cost of several thousand dollars per mile, serving pretty well for a couple of years, then gradually getting out of repair, until in a few years time they have become flattened, rutted and punctuated with numerous pitch-holes, while the surface gravel is mixed with the clay beneath, producing, after each rain, a sloppy mud, not so deep, it is true, as on the unmetalled road, but more jolty. About this stage some patchwork is usually done, but its patchiness is its undoing, and seldom is a perfect repair effected. An indefinite period of anything but good travelling ensues, until finally another coat of gravel or stone is applied. So we go on year after year, sinking millions upon millions of dollars into the mud, with a very small percentage of good roads and scarcely any first-class ones at any time to show for the outlay.

We shall continue to do this thing until we put in practice a systematic policy of thorough maintenance. Every county road system should be divided into sections of from five to ten miles with a competent, responsible caretaker in charge, this man to have a few tools and a horse and wagon when needed. His business should be to go up and down the beat attending to the dozens of little things—the stitches in time. Rolling stones should be raked up, crushed and used for repairs. Small holes should be promptly filled with the same kind of material as the road was built of, ruts as they form should be smoothed with a drag or a rake. Bridges should be looked after, and weeds cut, while in the winter snow roads need to be made and kept open.

Township road systems should be organized on a plan similar to that of the counties, with a general superintendent in charge, and working foremen under him, to look after beats of various lengths. These foremen should have authority to employ assistance, when needed. The principal reliance in maintaining earth roads would be the split-log drag, and it may also be employed to advantage on gravel roads. W. A. McLean, Engineer of Highways for the Province of Ontario, estimates that a township could have its earth roads dragged six or eight times a year for \$5.00 a mile. With a hundred miles of road this would come to \$500 a year. To-day the average Ontario township spends in money and labor about \$5,000 a year on its roads, and in most cases the results are anything but satisfactory. Lack of proper provision for maintenance is the big trouble.

The Ontario Government has for years had a standing offer to defray a proportion of the cost of construction of approved systems of county roads. The present proportion borne by the Government is one-third. The suggestion has been made that it be increased to one-half. A better one is that the Government continue to pay one-third the cost of construction and supplement this by defraying a similar proportion of the cost of systematic maintenance for a stated period of years. This will encourage the upkeep of county roads in a condition to recommend good-roads expenditure, justifying the county outlay and Government grant, and producing results worth while for the money. As an object lesson it would be emphatic. Encourage maintenance.

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