

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

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, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

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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
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LONDON, CANADA.

forces of Nature, and that, even in the disturbance
of Her laws, there is an overruling Power that
makes for our greatest good. Thus, in our seem-
ing misfortune are found good reasons for expres-
sions of gratitude on the approaching Thanksgiv-
ing Day.

Plowing Matches and Colt Shows.

Plowing matches are an excellent institution.
They bring farmers together for the study and en-
couragement of one of the primary and most im-
portant operations of agriculture. The only
trouble with them is that they are too few.
There is a tendency to think that artistic, ac-
curate plowing is associated only with the old
walking plow, and to regard the disappearance of
these as marking the death of plowing matches.
But good plowing can never be dispensed with,
and the man is just as important a factor with a
two-furrow sulky plow as he is with the old
Scotch type. Remembering this, there are many
reasons why matches should be on the increase.
A match in each community every autumn would
be a splendid impetus to the care of plows, of
team, of harness, and an inspiration to do good
work.

With the plowing match should be combined a
colt show. The township fair tries, but often fails,
to a large extent, to stimulate more than a very
few in each community. What is needed is a
stimulus to the affairs of every farmer. A colt
show and a plowing match will not require more
than one day's time, and can be held later in the
fall, when the work is less pressing, so that every
man can attend the affair. Giving a half day to
the one feature of colts is much more likely to
do good than trying to see a hundred different
things at the county fair in one or even two days.
To the colt show, a first-class man may be brought
from the Agricultural College or Government of-
fices, to give the benefits of his expert ability.
Give the plowing match and the colt show a fair
trial, and see if they are not worth a permanent
place in the affairs of your community.

The Return to the Land.

A young merchant, in the city where this jour-
nal is published, related to us the other day, with
evident satisfaction, that he had been successful
in securing outside of the city limits a very fine
five-acre plot of land, with a comfortable brick
dwelling, an orchard, and plenty of grass, trees,
and soil well suited for gardening. Originally
brought up upon the farm, he had wearied of the
limitations of the town and its artificialities, and
longed for something akin to the real, wholesome
life of the country. "Our ideas about these
things are changing," said he. "When I was a
boy, the aim seemed to be on the part of young
people to get off the farm as quickly as possible
to some occupation worth while in town, and on
the part of the heads of families to work for
all they were worth for a few years to accumulate
enough to retire to town, set up an establishment
with modern conveniences and commence to live.
The conception that the farm home should be
made an end in itself—a place of comfort, attrac-
tion and personal improvement, seems never to
have become the spirit of their dreams." More's
the pity that it was so, for it did incalculable
harm not only to the individuals themselves, but
to farming as an occupation. But at last com-
mon sense and nature-love are reasserting them-
selves. Country life is slowly beginning to be
appreciated; likewise, the possibilities of farming
as a business conducted with thoughtful skill and
energy, especially on a moderate acreage, under
such unequalled conditions of soil, climate and
marketing as prevail in Ontario and other Eastern
Provinces of Canada.

Silos: Used and Abused.

The silo fever has been pretty long reaching
some sections of this country, but is spreading
like wildfire now. In districts where the first
silo was erected, perhaps four or five years ago,
neighbors, perceiving the economy of labor, to-
gether with profitable results in milk and beef
production, have been falling in line, at first grad-
ually, one here and there, but latterly by the
dozen, until this year silos have gone up with a
rush, and building is still proceeding. Some of
the blacksmiths have been kept busy this fall mak-
ing silo hoops. It is no uncommon thing for a
gang of neighbors, working on the co-operative
plan, to assemble to fill a silo that has not yet
been built. The preliminary step is to shove up
the tub, and then proceed to put the corn into it.
Of course, only stave silos can be thus quickly
constructed, but even cement ones are often de-
cided upon in August or early September, and
finished in time to ensile the same season's corn
crop.

The saving of labor by this means of handling
corn cannot fail to be appreciated wherever properly
tried. To be sure, it makes a busy time for
two or three weeks in the fall, but when a fort-
night's work by two men will reap, husk, haul to
the barn, grind and cut a ten or twelve-acre crop
of the most economical cattle feed grown on our
farms, barning, perhaps, alfalfa hay, it doesn't
take much of a wit to read PROFIT in capital
letters. The co-operative plan works out fully as
well here as in threshing, and is becoming quite
common. We visited a section in Haldimand
County last week, where half a dozen farmers had
combined to purchase a silo-filling outfit for \$600,
including \$300 for a very serviceable second-hand
boiler. Each co-operator furnishes one man be-
sides himself to help fill every silo, making a gang
of twelve. Each silo is refilled after settling, if
necessary. It would be pretty difficult to per-
suade any of these men to go back to husking
their whole crop, though some of them may husk
their surplus. Indeed, we believe it would pay,
in many cases, to grow some corn for husking,
besides enough to fill one or two silos.

We may add that these farmers are growing
well-matured Whitescap Bent, untouched with
frost the first of October, on clay land where they
once considered successful corn growing out of the
question. It is wonderful what can be done when
it is faithfully tried.

Within a few miles of this neighborhood, where
silos are now going up like mushrooms, a district
formerly adapted to corn raising, where the
stave silo is almost unknown, a heritage was tried

a few years ago, but tried unfavorably. Somehow,
farmers there got the idea, once prevalent,
that any kind of green, slushy stuff would do for
the silo. The resulting silage seemed to their cat-
tle, and, of course, gave unsatisfactory results in
either meat or milk. The silos were sold or torn
down, and inquirers are advised that silos have
been tried and found wanting. It all depends up-
on how they are tried.

The country is large, and no one unfortunate
experience can discredit such a valuable practice
as ensilage. Certainly, the rate at which these
economical feed storages are now being erected is
gratifying to the staunchest advocate. With care
in filling, moderation in feeding, and some reason-
able attention to balancing the ration, there will
be many well-pleased cattle-feeders this winter.
The silo is not the whole thing in profitable cow-
keeping, as some seem to assume, but it is a very
important factor, since good corn silage is the
succulent and bulky basis for the most economical
winter cattle ration produced in Canada, and,
when combined with such nitrogenous feeds as al-
falfa or clover hay, wheat bran, buckwheat mid-
dlings, oil cake and cottonseed or gluten meal, it
solves the feeding problem with a smile.

HORSES.

Cost of Horse Power.

TWENTY DOLLARS IN PRIZES.

By skillful reduction of cost in production, manu-
facturers are enabled to reap handsome profits.
Electricity is substituted for steam, or water-
power displaces both if it proves to be available,
and ultimately less expensive, machinery replaces
manual labor; an unnecessary motion is elimi-
nated here, or a useless step there, to save time
and energy, thus increasing the efficiency and re-
ducing the cost. In farm work, one of the most
expensive items to instal and maintain is horse-
power. Horses cost money, either if raised, or
purchased in the market; it also costs to feed
them day by day. But not many know accurate-
ly the size of the feed bill of their horses. To
obtain precise information on this subject, we of-
fer \$20, to be given in three prizes of \$10, \$6
and \$4, respectively, for the best contributions up-
on the following subject:

What do the services of an average farm horse
cost his owner per year and per day?

In the discussion of this question, one should
consider the cost of feed, stabling, grooming, in-
terest, annual depreciation on the value of the
animal, shoeing, harnessing, and every other de-
tail that enters into securing the use of the horse.
Contributions should be carefully written, should
be based, as far as possible, on accurate data or
careful estimates, and should enter minutely into
all the details of the question. Let us have the
fruits of your experience, and the general public
the advantage of your knowledge. Manuscripts
will be received until Saturday, Nov. 26th, 1910.

A Developing Ration.

I have a registered Clydesdale stallion that
was six years old this last August. He has been
poorly fed, and not developed as he should be.
I would like a ration to develop him and grow
plenty of muscle. He is 17 hands high, weighs
1,675 pounds, and girls 6 feet 7 inches. He is
in good condition. We work him a little every
week. I am feeding some green cornstalks, all
the nice lucerne hay he will eat, two quarts rolled
oats, and four quarts bran at a feed three times
a day.
G. H.

Horses have usually reached their maximum
development by the time they are six years old,
and it is very probable that your horse has not
been taken in hand in time to materially affect his
development. You suggest, however, one of the
most important principles of successful horse-
breeding by your question. Canadians have not
risen to that place in the realm of horse-breeding
that they should now be occupying, and which in
cattle-breeding circles they have occupied for the
last twenty years, because they have disregarded
the very point your query raises, viz., proper care
and feeding. There is scarcely room for a man
to doubt that improper care and improper and in-
sufficient feeding of a horse in the developing
period will result in a more or less imperfect ma-
turity. From the time of birth until maturity
the young horse should be fed liberally and sanely;
plenty of fresh air, without exposure in inclement
weather, or drafty sheds; an abundance of regular
exercise always; and a judiciously-chosen, liberally-
supplied ration, are the elements which, though
easily supplied, are commonly neglected. Timothy
hay and clean, bright clover or alfalfa hay do ex-
cellently for horses young or old, but moderation
must govern the use of them, and especially of
alfalfa. This last plant is an unexcelled source