

## 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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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely  
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### Eastern Experience with Box- packing.

Some experienced fruit-growers in Eastern Canada expect to see box-packing much more generally resorted to for the shipment of choice apples of No. 1 grade. Interest has been evinced in several quarters in our experience with box-packing in "The Farmer's Advocate" Demonstration Orchard. Consideration of the matter of box versus barrel packing leads us to the following conclusions, which, however, are but tentative, and subject to revision:

A barrel holds about 150 pounds of apples; a box, 12 pounds. The boxes cost us 15 cents apiece, the barrels 40 cents. Under our conditions, employing expensive male labor, it cost between 6 and 7 cents to pack a box, and about 15 cents to pack a barrel. Deducting package and packing, a box of fruit netted us about 78 cents. Now, if 42 pounds of fruit netted 78 cents, 150 pounds (the quantity in a barrel) would net about \$2.78. If packed in a barrel, this quantity of apples would have to sell for \$2.78 plus 40¢. plus 15¢., or \$3.33, in order to net as much as they did sold at \$1.00 per box. However, as the grading is supposed to be, and in our case really was, much stricter than for barrel-packing, this advantage is pared down. We estimate, however, that \$1.00 per box was at least as good as \$3.00 a barrel, especially as the closer culling goes to build up the No. 2 grade.

Fruit packed properly in boxes carries better, opens out better, and sells better than barrelled fruit.

Taking all things into account, it probably pays to pack dessert fruit in boxes, particularly in a year of high prices.

A number of co-operative fruit-shipping associations in Ontario have tried the box-pack, and have had very fair returns. While as yet they have not, speaking generally, the skill to put up fruit in quantities such as sent out from Hood River and Rogue River Valleys of Oregon and Washington, still, the returns have been very favorable as compared with the prices received for Western fruit.

One association has shipped a carload of boxed apples to France. The experience of two of the largest associations is that all their early apples, such as Duchess, Astrachan, Wealthy, Snow, Alexander, etc., bring far better returns when packed in the bushel box. One of them reports making as much per box on the early fruit as per barrel on the winter fruit.

One good thing about the box package is that it tends to cut out much of the poorer-grade fruit. If growers will keep in mind that the box package should not contain anything other than the best of our fruit, we can soon work up a splendid reputation for this package. If, however, it becomes merely another outlet for low-grade fruit, our reputation will suffer accordingly.

There is this point, too, as Mr. McNeill made clear in his paper read before the Quebec Pomological and Fruit-growing Society, the market for box-packed apples is a special market, and the customers have to be sought out at first. To derive the best returns from box-packing, it must be followed up year after year, and a reputation established that may eventually be coined into money.

### The Colt-training Question.

Several responses to the invitation extended to our readers for comment or criticism of the methods of colt-training outlined in the prizewinning articles recently published in these columns on that subject have been received, not all of which have been complimentary or commendatory, and some of which have been decidedly critical. The principal point to which exception has been taken is the extent of time required to impart to a colt the education and training advocated. It must be admitted that there is some reason in this complaint, since "time is money," or its equivalent, on the farm, as in other occupations, and especially in these times, when suitable help is so difficult to secure. It is a co-incidence, however, that, in a considerable majority of the essays entered in the competition there is a striking similarity in the methods of education suggested, such as the early accustoming of the foal to be handled, haltered, and taught the lessons of submission to the will of his trainer, and confidence in his kindly attention and intentions. While it may have appeared to some readers that too much emphasis has been attached to this early training, and to some of the later phases of the undertaking, it may, at the same time, be accepted as sound doctrine, and adopted to the extent to which time available will admit. Another coincidence is that the authors of the prizewinning essays have evidently dealt principally with the education necessary in the training of the lighter, or driving, class of horse, which necessarily differs considerably in kind and degree from that required in the heavy-draft class, which are usually of quieter disposition and temperament, and much more easily trained for the work and duties they are called upon to perform. The former class logically require, and, as a rule, receive much more time and attention in their training, and it is possible that the judge's predilections run more in the direction of the driving or harness class, or of the saddler, and that his rating of the essays may to some extent be accounted for on this score, though, except for the question of time involved, it is difficult to conceive of any valid objection to the method of gradual training and education advocated by the writers of the prize-winning essays, when the wide difference in the temper and disposition of young horses is taken into account. And since colt-training is usually done in the winter months, when farm work is generally less pressing than at other seasons, and time less valuable, the training advised may profitably be adopted to a greater or less extent.

Thoroughness in the training of a colt may serve to avoid the formation of vices or faults of manners which may seriously affect his usefulness as a worker or driver, and as seriously discount his value in the market. In view of these possibilities, a little extra time given to his training may be profitably expended.

A correspondent, referring to the methods set forth in the first-prize essay, suggests that it might interest our readers to know what occupation the writer follows. In regard to that question, we are assured that he has been raised on a farm, and personally performs a fair share of

the work on a 200-acre farm, on which a dairy herd of pure-bred Holsteins and as many grades are kept, and that he has had considerable experience in training colts, of which he has three in hand at present, two of which are of the carriage class, with tempers requiring careful treatment, the third being a Clydesdale, promising to be more easily trained.

### Notes from Ireland.

#### WHAT ARBOR DAY CAN DO.

Amid all the bitter battles of the Budget, the cries and countercries of constitutional custom, and the excitement of electioneering encounters, national undertakings, none the less practical because more prosaic, are apt to be lost sight of. The passage of the latest Irish Land Bill through Parliament has, however, served to bring to the front once more the vitally important subject of Irish afforestation. At last something has been done to deal with this eminently utilitarian matter, and by the Act referred to, the Department of Agriculture have been appointed the forestry authority for the country. Special clauses defining their duty in this capacity are contained in the Bill, and effect is thereby given to several of the suggestions made eighteen months ago by the committee which inquired exhaustively into the matter. In the future, when an estate is purchased by the Estates Commissioners, who thereby obtain possession of the woodlands, the Department can step in and buy these from the commissioners, repaying the purchase money in annual instalments, just as the tenants pay their annuities. The Department thus become national trustees of woodlands so obtained. Already, on the strength of the committee's recommendations, several forests have been secured, properly fenced and provided for by trained experts. The Act also empowers the Department to acquire land and raise money for tree-planting purposes in conjunction with the county and district councils, but no local scheme can be proceeded with till submitted to and approved of by the Department. A third responsibility imposed by the Act on the Department is the control of tenant-purchasers in the matter of timber-cutting, a duty formerly entrusted to the Land Commission, but very laxly observed. It will now be an offence under the Act for any purchaser to cut down trees on his holding without permission first being obtained from the authorities. This, it is hoped, will check wanton waste.

Some readers may be wondering why I have introduced "Arbor Day" into the title of this portion of my article. Well, the reason is a desire to give credit where it is justly due. We owe to its influence the unanimity of public sentiment manifested in persistent agitation that has compelled the State to take definite action. As in other countries, so in Ireland, Arbor Day is destined to prove the handmaid of afforestation. Although not yet as widely observed here as it ought to be, the movement was celebrated with greater éclat and enthusiasm this past year than ever during the five or six years that have elapsed since its introduction into Ireland. Labor Day has had to live down a great deal of prejudice. For a long time it was regarded by a large section of the community as merely some now-forgotten idiosyncrasy of well-intentioned but irrational faddists; but the comparative handful of enthusiastic arboriculturists, undeterred by the prevailing indifference, have pushed the movement well along, and, as a matter of course, it is carrying its own enlightenment and justification with it. No longer is it fashionable for any intelligent person to decry the influence of Arbor Day in centering the public gaze on the timber problem. The institution, as it were, "finds tongues in trees," and its annual observance not only speaks encouragement to active woodland lovers, but it utters a forcible rebuke yearly to those who are heedlessly denuding the country of its existing forests and, worse still, deliberately repudiating their responsibility in the matter of replanting. It is also found that Arbor Day is instrumental in bringing together in desirable harmony of accord people of all shades of religious belief and political fancy. If it did nothing else, it would confer inestimable benefit on our country, which has too long been sadly divided.

Foremost among the useful functions which Arbor Day is now showing itself to be capable of discharging is the enlistment of the earnest sympathies of the children in the subject of tree-life and welfare. A great deal of damage and neglect for which "grown-up" folk are responsible is doubtless due to ignorance as well as wilfulness, to want of thought as well as want of heart; and it is not a very easy task to materially alter the attitude of the adult mind. But greater hope of success lies with the children, and we are confidently looking to Arbor Day to spread through our country and city schools, and impart to the juvenile mind a love for trees born of an intelligent understanding of their nature as living things, an appreciation of their worth as national assets, and an inevitable sympathetic consideration for their welfare.