

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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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.
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system when such is the case. We simply raise this point that our readers may do a little thinking. Is farming fast becoming an expensive hobby for rich men, or is it, compared with other industries, not a paying business? Think it over and suggest a remedy.

The Telephone For Weather and Market Reports.

The rural telephone has been the means of improving social conditions and business relations all over the farming districts of Canada. It has saved dollars—thousands of dollars—to the producers in this agricultural country, and it has given the farmer and his family just one more of the conveniences which, in the past, made city life a little more attractive than country life. At the session of the Ontario Legislature recently brought to a close, some changes in the Telephone Act were made. The following clauses relating to receiving and transmitting weather bulletins will interest our readers:

1. It shall be the duty of every telephone company, its operators and agents, to whose central office the daily weather forecast bulletin issued by the Meteorological Bureau is delivered or transmitted, to receive the same and forthwith transcribe such bulletin legibly in writing or type on a form to be prescribed by the Board, and to file the same in said exchange, and to communicate, free of charge, the contents of such bulletin to any subscriber of such company requesting the same.
2. The Board may by Order or regulation direct any telephone company to whose central exchange the daily weather forecast bulletin is delivered or transmitted as aforesaid, to transmit the contents of the same to any connecting company whose operators and agents shall thereupon in like manner as in the previous subsection receive, transcribe and file the same, and communicate its contents free of charge to any subscriber of such last-mentioned company requesting the same.

Every farmer should know of these regulations, and should plan to make the fullest possible use of his telephone in order to get the latest Weather Bulletins which are furnished by the Meteorological Bureau to a majority

of the exchanges of the Bell Telephone Company in Ontario, which exchanges have connecting arrangements with approximately 500 rural telephone systems within the jurisdiction of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board. Arrangements have been made whereby the Bell Telephone Company will furnish these daily weather forecasts to the rural systems, and the legislation referred to makes it incumbent upon the officials operating these systems to communicate, free of charge each forecast to any subscriber requesting it. Farmers are altogether dependent upon the weather. No other factor means so much to them. Very often a knowledge of the forecasts would be worth dollars in saving crops from rain or frost and in planning work generally. Make use of the telephone for weather reports.

We are pleased to note this important step in telephone service to farmers, and in doing so have just one suggestion to offer. The Dominion Government has made arrangements to secure, and is getting out, the best available market reports, but they do not reach the readers in time to be of greatest value. Could not something be done by which farmers could get daily, over their telephones, the latest prices on their nearest large market, say Toronto or Montreal, for such farm produce as butter and eggs, such stock as cattle, hogs and sheep, and such grains as wheat, barley and oats for instance? This would prove a boon to farmers generally. The men are already engaged by the Government to get these reports on the big markets. Surely arrangements could be made by which the farmer could get the daily reports in much the same manner as the weather reports have now been made available. We commend the Ontario Government for making the weather reports available. We also commend the Dominion authorities for their work in connection with the live-stock market reports, but the latter should be carried a step farther, and the reports should be made available to the farmer in a similar manner to that by which he may now get his weather forecasts.

World Benefactors.

Florence Nightingale.

The scientific mind of man has allowed itself to devise and perfect machinery for the wholesale slaughter of human beings, and in the past the war lords directed their efforts more to the art of effecting casualties in the enemies' ranks than to the preservation of life in their own battalions where disease, pestilence and infected wounds exacted a heavy toll. Under such conditions Florence Nightingale launched her campaign for the alleviation of human suffering on the fields of battle, and while armies fought against armies, and man against man, she led her corps of nurses against the forces of disease, infection, pain, suffering and sorrow. No one could accuse Florence Nightingale of commercializing her skill, or practicing her profession for the furtherance of her own aims. She exhausted her physical strength and permanently impaired her health in the Crimean campaign, where her philanthropic efforts made her name immortal. Few personalities have been so revered and no earthly name stands for a greater degree of self-sacrifice in the interests of mankind than does that of Florence Nightingale.

The heroine of this short story was, incidentally, born in Florence, on the 15th of May, 1820, but she was the daughter of William Edward Nightingale, Embley Park, Derbyshire, England. Her childhood days were chiefly spent in Derbyshire, and at this stage in her career she was noted locally for her great love of nature and the character of her play. Her love of nursing manifested itself early in life, for she was constantly bandaging her dolls and nursing them through imaginary periods of illness. Her first patient was a shepherd's dog, and from animals she passed to human beings, always presenting herself for service where one could help, and banishing pain or sorrow where her skillful hand or a kind word would avail. As she approached womanhood she devoted her whole time to the acquisition of knowledge concerning the art of nursing. She made thorough investigation at home where hospitals were then badly managed. In addition to this she travelled in France and Germany, and became acquainted with the latest in sanitation and hospital management. After her return to England she devoted herself to the re-organization of certain hospitals, and had the satisfaction of placing them on more satisfactory basis.

In 1854, England was shocked by a report of the deplorable conditions in the Crimea, where no preparation had been made to care for the wounded and dying. Even the commonest and most simple demands of a large army for medical attention and proper nursing had been neglected. The barrack hospital at Scutari was lamentably inadequate and miserably conducted. The English public grasped the situation and began to act at once. Florence Nightingale immediately offered her services, but her letter crossed one from the Secretary of War inviting her to proceed to the Crimea. She, with thirty-seven nurses, reached Scutari on the 4th of November, just in time to receive the wounded from Balaclava. A few days later six hundred casualties from the battle of Inkerman came under her attention. Soon she had ten thousand men under her care, and the

supervision of all the hospitals on the Bosphorus. To this task she applied herself, body and soul, and the story of her wonderful work in that theatre of war constitutes one of the brightest pages in English historical literature. Not only did her executive ability and skilful attention reduce the death rate from forty-two per cent. to around two per cent., but by day and night she visited the patients and cheered them with words of kindness. She herself was stricken with fever but refused to leave her post, and remained at Scutari until the British army evacuated Turkey, in July, 1856. England was aroused to indescribable enthusiasm over the achievement of Florence Nightingale, and a man-of-war was ordered to bring her home. She, however, took passage on a French boat and reached her country home in England before her return was announced. The terrible experiences in the Crimea permanently injured her health, but she was spared to many years of usefulness before her death, which took place on the 13th of August, 1910. Many improvements in the management of hospitals in England were due to the efforts of Florence Nightingale. It was believed, though not officially confirmed, that she submitted a valuable confidential report to the Government on the working of the Army Medical Corps in the Crimea, and to have been consulted at the time of the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. The present marvellous efficiency of the Army Medical Corps and Red Cross organizations depends, to a large degree, on the stimulus given to improved nursing and care of the wounded by Florence Nightingale, whose name is considered almost sacred, not only where the British flag waves but in all countries of the world where self-sacrifice is a virtue and kind words for those in pain or sorrow emanate from a sympathetic heart. She was honored by her King, but the plain and simple name of Florence Nightingale, unencumbered by title, will live centuries after the memory of lords and ladies has faded from the minds of her countrymen.

Testing.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

During the past winter a good deal of discussion has been going on in some of the farm journals in regard to the official testing of dairy cows. The argument was chiefly as to which was the more valuable, the seven-day test or the Record of Performance work, which takes a full year. Opinions were pretty evenly divided on the matter, and it's a question if the ideas of anyone who read all the letters that were written, were changed to any great degree. The dairyman who has a cow that makes a better showing in a seven-day test than in the yearly work naturally stands up for that system, while the man who has a cow that inclines to keep up her production for ten or twelve months will favor the long R. O. P. test. Some of the writers suggested reducing the time of the test to ten months, and I think it would be a step in the right direction. It shows a tendency towards moderation.

It has always seemed to me that there was a weak spot in our methods of cow-testing as they are generally carried on. There is a straining after records that overlooks everything but that one object. The health of the cow, the practical utility of the test, and the wrong impression given as to a particular cow's ability to continue producing up to the high-water mark reached in the test, are all lost sight of. The real purpose of these tests in the minds of many breeders is, I believe, to crowd and force some of their cows into making remarkable records in the way of milk and butter, to advertise these records, and then hold an auction sale, or, if not that, to charge fancy prices for the offspring of any of these animals which they may dispose of by private sale. What has been termed a "fictitious value" has been put upon these animals by means of a trial of production made under abnormal conditions.

I read a pamphlet recently, said to be written by an expert in the business of preparing cows for, and running them through, an official test. A good deal of his advice would have been thought worse than foolish by the breeders and feeders of dairy cows a generation ago, and it seems to me quite possible that the stockmen of the future will hold a similar opinion about it. In the first place, he says, in preparing a cow for the test one should aim to put all the fat they can on them in the shortest possible time. He says he had a cow that gained one hundred pounds in one week. The idea of getting so much soft fat on them is, of course, to make possible an abnormally high production of butter-fat for the short period in which it is being "milked off their backs," as they say. This plan is adopted particularly for the seven-day test. The result is a poor quality of butter, for the reason that it is composed largely of tallow, due to the body-fat of the cow finding its way into the milk pail. Of what particular value is a record made in this way to the practical farmer who wants to know what the cow he buys will do in the course of a year, and what she is likely to do every year, for that matter?

Then our expert goes on to say that during this milking period a cow will require thirty pounds of grain a day, besides, of course, her silage and hay. In addition to this she should get forty pounds of roots. If she shows any signs of going off her feed the ration should be reduced for a short time. He says he has given some cows as high as one hundred pounds of beets a day while they were on test. He has also fed as high as four bushels of potatoes a day to a certain cow that seemed to have a taste for them. That this was not very profitable we must suppose from the fact that he tells us that her milk was unfit for use during the time she was being forced by this means. Another method he recommends for preventing indigestion is to lead the

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