

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MANITOBA
AND N.-W. T.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

WALTER E. GUNN, BUSINESS MANAGER.
A. G. HOPKINS, D. V. M., B. S. A., EDITOR.
F. S. JACOBS, B. S. A., ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

OFFICES:

IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA.

EASTERN OFFICE:

CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:

W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Wednesday (52 issues per year). It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Western Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 15 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE 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 this office, 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.
9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change of address should give the old as well as the new P. O. address. A couple of weeks necessarily elapse before the change can be made, and before the first copy of The Farmer's Advocate will reach any new subscriber. All subscriptions commence with the date of the first copy received.
11. 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 ADVOCATE, 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.
12. 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),
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Look at Your Label!

YOU WILL NOTICE BY THE ADDRESS LABEL ON YOUR PAPER THE DATE TO WHICH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS PAID. IF YOU FIND THAT IT IS NOT PAID IN ADVANCE, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU REMIT AT ONCE, AS WE ARE PUBLISHING TOO COSTLY AND TOO VALUABLE A PAPER TO PERMIT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS REMAINING IN ARREARS.

What are You Doing with Manure on Your Farm.

Amongst other things we call attention to as needing experimentation at the branch farms is the handling of farmyard manure. When a student at the O. A. C., Guelph, some years ago, the writer was thoroughly impressed with Wm. Rennie's (Sr.) term, "the farmer's bank," for the manure pile. We should like to hear from our readers on this important question of manure. Do you draw it to the field direct from the stable, and spread it there? What land do you apply it to, summer-fallow, stubble land intended for barley, or do you top-dress your grass land with it. Do you use a manure spreader? At what rate, loads per acre, do you apply the manure? Do you mix the cow and horse manure? Do you try to rot the manure before applying; if so, how? Do you plow the manure in; if so, how deep do you plow, or is the disk your favorite implement to get manure incorporated into the soil? The manure question is to be an important one in this country; help your neighbors and other farmers by giving your experiences in this matter.

Thinks as Others Do.

Dear Sirs,—Enclosed find amount \$1.50, to cover my subscription for 1905 for the "Farmer's Advocate." I think it is a very good farm paper. Yours truly,
Elva.

THOS. SMITH.

Importance of Good Seed.

The re-introduction of the Pure-seeds Bill by Hon. Sydney Fisher in the House of Commons at Ottawa, and the discussion thereon, will serve to again direct the attention of farmers to the paramount importance of paying more attention to the quality of the seed they sow. The investigations made by the Seeds Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture into the character of the grain and grass seeds placed upon the market by dealers and others, and the publication of their findings, have proved an eye-opener to farmers, revealing a frightful source of dissemination of foul seeds, and accounting in a large measure for the ever-increasing evil of noxious weeds, entailing not only much extra labor in their destruction, but seriously reducing the yield and quality of farm crops, proving a heavy financial loss in the returns from the land.

The distribution of weed seeds has doubtless been largely through the sale of impure clover and grass seeds, in which case the weed seeds are so nearly similar in size and appearance to the seed ostensibly sold, as to be practically impossible of identification or detection by the naked eye. A chart supplied by the Department of Agriculture shows that in samples found on sale in Ontario, from 6,000 to 15,000 weed seeds were found in a pound of what was being sold as red clover, and that in samples of alsike clover as high as 23,556 weed seeds in one case were found, and in another no fewer than 49,830 seeds of weeds. In the former case the sample having only seventy-two per cent. of pure seed was priced at \$5.25 per bushel, or equal to \$7.29 per bushel for the good red clover seed it contained. While, in the latter case, the sample priced at \$8.00 per bushel, and containing only forty-eight per cent. of good seed, would cost in reality for the alsike \$16.66 per bushel. These are startling figures, and though those quoted may be extreme cases, all will readily agree that if the average sample is one-twentieth as bad in this respect, the condition is truly alarming.

As a result of the publication of the reports of the discussion of this question when Mr. Fisher's bill was before the House last year, seed merchants report already an increasing enquiry by farmers and dealers for first-class seed, and the circumstances certainly justify the introduction of the measure, the provisions of which, it is to be hoped, will be made so clear, workable and imperative that the enactment may have the desired effect of diminishing, to a very marked extent, the percentage of foul seeds sold.

The need of greater care in the selection and cleaning of seed on the part of farmers is more urgent than most of them are aware. Carefully-conducted experiments have proven undeniably that the increase in the yield of grain from plump, sound seed over that of seed of average quality is such as to make it well worth while to exercise special care in thoroughly cleaning the seed. It is claimed that in eleven years, Prof. Zavitz, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has, by selecting the seed, increased the yield of oats from 58 bushels to 77 bushels per acre. If but one-half or one-quarter of that increase can be secured by the average farmer the value of the crops would be immensely augmented. It has been calculated that if by good seed the yield of the crops in Canada could be increased by only one bushel per acre it would mean \$6,000,000 more in the pockets of the farmers of this country annually. The short course in judging grain and other seeds, as well as live stock, instituted at the agricultural colleges, and which it is expected will be arranged for at other centers in the near future, should prove helpful in creating a greater interest in the pure-seeds propaganda, and set farmers and farmers' sons to thinking and acting along these lines to their profit. In the meantime, it is important that early provision be made for the selection of good seed for the coming spring season, and extra care given to thorough cleaning, and, in any case of doubt as to the vitality of the seed, to have its germinating qualities tested long before seeding time. A word as to the folly of buying cheap seed, simply because the price is low, and without reference to quality and purity. The cheapest, apparently, as we have shown, may be very dear in the end, and the highest priced, if the quality is right, may be by far the cheapest, just as a low-priced farm paper may be very dear as compared with an up-to-date, progressive and reliable publication. Quality should count in the estimation of intelligent people.

Horses.

Showing Draft Horses.

In these times, owing to a good demand and profitable prices, special interest is being taken in horse breeding, in horse shows, and in the horse department of live-stock shows generally. In this connection, the views of an English exhibitor, as to some points of advantage in the proper showing of draft horses for judging in the ring, as published in the Live-stock Journal, may be helpful to those having occasion to enter their horses for competition. He says, in part:

"During the past thirty years the art of bringing out heavy horses for shows in such a manner as to captivate judges and the crowd has developed a numerous army of experts, each of whom knows he is on his mettle. So far as yearlings are concerned, everyone likes to see them in the rough, their coats and feather indicating that they have been kept in the open and in no way pampered. The two-year-old has to be haltered and handled, to walk like a gentleman and stand like a well-executed statue, neither scraping nor knuckling. Tripping and dragging and all indications of slovenliness have to be got quit of, for nothing catches a judge's eye so quickly as gaiety and freedom of carriage when a colt is first brought into the ring. If it is a near thing as to bone and weight between two, carriage and action will decide the issue.

"Shoeing for the show is now very common, and much can be done in this way to bring out evenness of hoofs. To get the feather into a comb on the backs of fore and hind legs, if the bone is round, is often a matter of difficulty, but is eventually overcome by repeated applications of the wooden brush. Soap and sawdust are rather to be deprecated, as both stallions and mares should be what they are wanted to reproduce, and not mere stage figures dressed for appearances.

"Once in the ring, a good deal depends on the leader. He ought to be sound in his wind to begin with, for if a good pace is made at the trot, he will have to let the horse drag him, whereas for a good show there should be absolute freedom of the head. He should also be an even, regularly paced walker, always equal to keeping pace at a walk with his charge. When ranged up, he should mind his own horse, giving an occasional glance in the direction of ring steward or judges."

Points of a Hackney.

Commencing with the head, it may be said of this most important Hackney point that it should be, comparatively speaking, wide at the jaw and taper gently towards the muzzle, the eyes being of a good size, so as to, in conjunction with the shape and dimensions of the head, convey into the mind of the observer an impression of strength, intelligence and courage combined with quality. A very small, effeminate-looking head-piece is almost as objectionable in a Hackney as a heavy one.

The neck should be of fair length, nicely bent, and rather thick at the setting on, though free from coarseness; whilst the chest must be wide, and let down behind the forearms, so as to allow plenty of space for the heart and lungs.

The shoulders of the Hackney, as in the case of all riding horses, should be free from all that superfluous lumber which only brings coarseness in its train. They should lay well back, and the bones should be long enough, forming, as they do, the attachment of the muscle serratus magnus, which connects the forelimbs and trunk. If these bones are small, the muscles must necessarily be short, and long muscles alone can afford that flexibility and liberty of shoulder action which is so characteristic of the Hackney.

The back must be long enough to allow plenty of room before and behind the saddle, and also very level and strong, whilst the loins should be compact and the quarters long and as powerful as possible without being coarse or of that coachy type which is so distasteful to many judges. The middle-piece of the Hackney is very level above and below, the ribs being well sprung, and the back ones of a nice length, so as to provide those indications of strength which are always to be eagerly sought after.

The fore legs should be short and very powerful, the arms being big and muscular, the joints large, and the bone below the knee plentiful and flat; whilst the pasterns should be of a fair length, so as to yield elasticity in action, and the feet of good size, and placed straight on under the legs.

The hind legs should possess powerful, sound thighs, strong, well-bent hocks, and ample bone, whilst the tail, which is set on rather high, should be carried gaily when the horse is fully extended.

Action is another consideration which must be taken up later. Suffice to say, approved action, as much as any other quality, fixes the selling value of the Hackney.