

THE FARMER'S 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, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
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12. 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 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.

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Speaking generally, the aim is to conserve and promote, first, soil fertility; second, freedom from weeds, and, third, the economical use of labor. Probably half a hundred of these suitably-located good farms will ultimately be designated for illustration purposes, and with the one will be associated thirty or forty other good farms in the district, the owners of which from time to time, will come together for conference, in order to learn and to concert their methods, in conjunction with a couple of representatives of the Commission who will be present. There will be no direct monetary compensations, but what will be of more benefit to the owners of these farms, information of great value, which, in turn, will be spread through the different districts, until, it is hoped, the movement becomes national in its scope. It is believed, among other things, that these farms will assist in solving some of the problems that confront the Canadian Seed-growers' Association, by the more rapid production of supplies of high-class seed, the extension of alfalfa-growing, etc.

The work has already sufficiently advanced as to warrant the Committee in the employment of John Fixter to give it his personal oversight. Mr. Fixter is well known through his successful management of the farm connected with Macdonald College, and formerly as farm foreman at the Central Experimental Farm. As a practical man, he has earned pre-eminence. Later on, other men of like standing, in whom farmers have confidence, will be associated with him. The conducting of the Commission Committee is not an easy one, but, with skill and patience, only the best operation of the different districts, large possibilities lie within its scope, even the possibility of profitably doubling the crop on the same area in a period of ten years, an achievement which Mr. C. James believes the Province to be capable of.

Alfalfa Tells.

"My son has a little alfalfa hay in his mow which he comes to every now and then, feeding other hay between. Every time he commences feeding the alfalfa, his cows go up about one quart apiece in their daily yield of milk. He sells his milk, and knows exactly what he gets." Thus spoke a retired farmer the other day, who has been watching his son's and his neighbors' experience with alfalfa for some time. We quote the remark, not as being in any way exceptional, but rather because it is typical of what we have heard from hundreds of alfalfa-feeders. Two things remarkable about the public attitude towards alfalfa are the indifference of the inexperienced and the enthusiasm of those who have tried it. We want to convert more enthusiasts.

As a crop, the pre-eminent virtue of alfalfa is its special adaptability for growing on hard clay hillsides, where ordinary rotation crops yield indifferently, even with the advantage of extra tillage and manure. Get alfalfa properly established on such hills, and you have a perennial gold mine. While hillsides are not the only place where alfalfa may be successfully grown, they are the ideal place, and the harder the clay and the steeper the slope, the better, so long as it is not too steep to mow and harvest the crop. On these clay hills the alfalfa is sure of surface drainage. Here it will endure the longest and will most successfully resist the encroachment of grass. Time and again we have seen alfalfa on rolling fields thinned out in the hollows, then on the tops of the loamy knolls, but on the clay brows of the hillsides it holds its own year after year, defying frost, defying grass, and sometimes resisting the plow, though close pasturing and thorough plowing will overcome it. Millions of dollars would be added to the returns of Canadian agriculture by seeding clay hillsides to alfalfa. On such lands, annual yields of four or five tons of hay per acre are common.

As a feed, it is worth at least twenty-five per cent. more than red clover. For growing stock and milch cows it is particularly valuable, being well adapted to take the place of bran. There is nothing better for wintering horses, so long as they are not allowed to overeat. Sheep, pigs and poultry all relish and thrive upon it. It is by far the best hay to supplement corn in any of its several forms, whether as silage, fodder or grain, and indeed its addition to almost any ordinary ration of farm roughage will improve the balance and augment the returns. It is well adapted to substitute for bran, which feed has now reached such a price as to be almost beyond the pale of profitable utilization. Here is Henry's chemical comparison of the digestible nutrients in alfalfa with those of bran, red clover and timothy. Note, especially its high content of protein, alfalfa standing close up to bran in this important regard:

	Crude protein	Carbohy- drates	Fat
	%	%	%
Alfalfa	11.7	40.9	1.0
Winter wheat bran ...	12.1	37.1	2.8
Red clover	7.1	37.8	1.8
Timothy	2.8	42.4	1.3

As a crop and as a feed, alfalfa stands pre-eminent among farm forages. Its chief disadvantages are that it will not stand pasturing very well, and, as it requires two or three years to become established, it is not especially suitable for short rotations. But as a hay and soiling crop and as hog pasture it is unrivalled. Get into the alfalfa class. Utilize those hard hillsides and grow your own bran.

The Publications Branch.

The Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, which was organized several months ago, has recently been given adequate quarters, and is now proceeding with the work for which it was established. The work of this Branch constitutes two divisions of Government service. The first consists of the work of the Canadian Commissioner of the International Agricultural Institute. The second embraces the editing and distribution of the bulletins, reports, circulars, etc., issued by the several branches of the Department of Agriculture.

The work of the Canadian Commissioner of the International Agricultural Institute is to furnish

the Institute at Rome with data relating to Canadian Agricultural Science, practice, organization and commerce, needed in its capacity as a world's center of agricultural information. The further work of this division of the Branch is to make available to Canadians the information published by the Institute in its several monthly publications.

The second division of the Branch, when fully developed, will become the authorized medium of all official communications between the Department and the Printing Bureau, and between the Department and the public, in so far as the distribution of publications is concerned. Up to the present, each Branch of the Department has looked after its own printing and distribution. Under the new system, this work is being consolidated, which, it is hoped, will result in more uniform work and greater dispatch. To facilitate distribution, the mailing lists of the different Branches have been put on stencils, and a modern addressing machine has been secured. The lists have been rearranged into constituencies, in which form they are easily accessible for purposes of revision. When it is understood that the distribution in 1912 embraced about one and one-half million pieces, which will be much exceeded as years pass, the importance of a well-organized office will be readily appreciated.

The chief officer of the Branch is T. K. Doherthy, who, before being appointed Canadian Commissioner of the International Institute, was for a number of years private secretary to Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture. The chief editor of the Branch is J. B. Spencer, who was promoted from the Live-stock Branch, in which he proved his fitness for this work in the preparation of the bulletins, "Sheep Husbandry in Canada," "Beef-raising in Canada," and "Swine Husbandry in the United Kingdom and Denmark." In passing, it may be noted that Mr. Spencer received his training for journalism in "The Farmer's Advocate."

Until the Publications Branch moved into its present quarters, it occupied two small rooms of the overcrowded Government building known as the Langevin Block. It now occupies a floor and a half of the Woods Building on Queen Street, recently vacated by the Railway Commission, that has moved to the new Grand Trunk Station. The publications that will hereafter be sent out by the new Branch will include all the bulletins and reports, issued for general distribution by the several purely agricultural branches of the Department of Agriculture. This will include, besides the annual reports, the numbered bulletins, reports of commissions, fruit-crop reports, the Census and Statistics Monthly, and Publications of the International Institute. Readers will, therefore, hear in mind that applications for publications of the Department should be addressed to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, instead of the individual Branches, as heretofore.

A New Type of Rural School.

As a concrete illustration of about what we mean by reform of rural education, we reproduce from Wallace's Farmer this article, by Edward L. Holton, telling what was accomplished by a twenty-one-year-old school teacher with ideas. There are few of her kind, but proper normal or model training, and a properly re-organized and developing school system would produce more of them; and to this end effort should be bent.

Three years ago, Miss C., twenty-one years old, was elected to teach in a district school. When she went to the school in September, she found an old box-car type of schoolhouse, setting on a tileless, half-acre lot. After she got her school organized, she and her boys took out of the room all of the unused desks, and fastened the rest of them to strips about 1 x 2½ inches, instead of to the floor, thus making it possible for her to push all of the desks to one side or to the center of the room when she wanted more room for her games or vocational work. She found an unused carpenter's bench in the community, which she had her boys take to the school. She and the boys worked this old bench over, and made a very workable manual-training bench out of it. This was placed over on one side of the room. Some of the boys brought in a few old tools, and she bought less than two dollars' worth of new tools. Under her direction, the boys in the upper grades sharpened and learned how to use the tools. They made book-shelves, a coal box, a table, a new set of steps, and many other things for the school-room. She secured a large drygoods box from the village store, and had her boys make it into a combination table and cupboard for her domestic science work. She purchased a small gasoline stove, and had the girls to bring in a few necessary utensils for cooking. Tuesday and Friday forenoons, after recess, she gave to vocational work. While the boys were working around the bench, the girls were working around the domestic