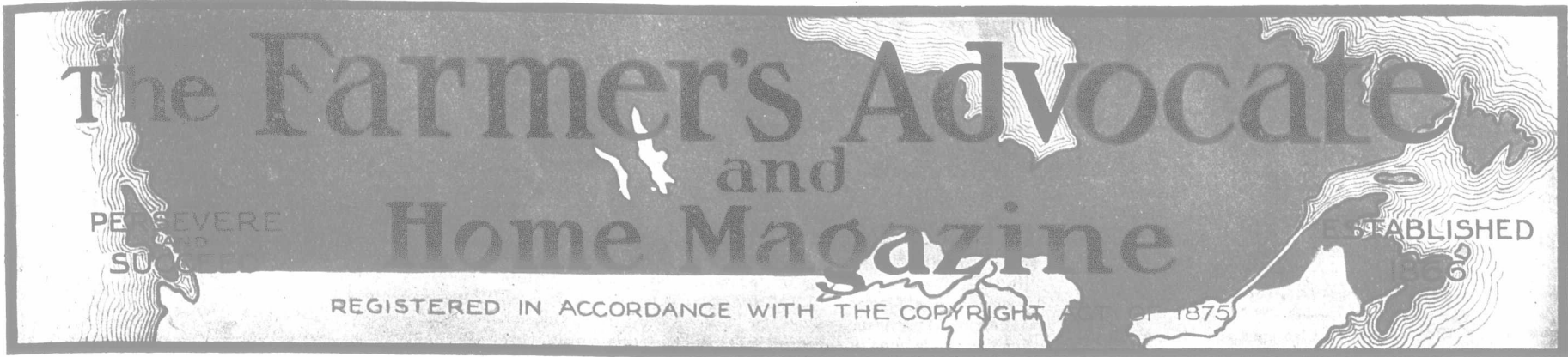




Vol. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, OCTOBER 19, 1911

No. 995

EDITORIAL.

Nature paints the best pictures still.

The falling leaf is the manure spreader of nature.

When Nature undertakes to recarpet the forest and the fall-wheat field, her October color scheme is gold and green.

The artist's inspiration lies about you. Even though you cannot wield the brush, be an artist. See Nature's beauty with an artist's eye.

Advices from several country points seem to confirm the report that the drouth has been successfully broken.

How to bottle up in the soil the fall rains for next season's crops, is a problem for the Physics Department of the Agricultural College.

We should like to resurrect Turner, the prince of English landscape painters, to depict the October glories of the Canadian wood-lot.

Has not the time arrived when Ontario live stock husbandry should be so conducted as to eliminate from the market reports, "Prices depressed through a deluge of common cattle"?

So sensitive and far-reaching are the nerves of finance that the war scare in Europe over the grab game of the powers in North Africa is reported to have caused a sharp decline in Canadian Pacific Railway shares on the London, Eng., stock market.

In few departments of government at Ottawa is there opportunity for more advantageous re-arrangement than in the Department of Agriculture. The new Minister, after being given time to consider the situation carefully, will be strongly supported in a judicious but radical reconstruction, carried out in co-operation with the other members of the Cabinet, particularly, of course, the first Minister.

Repeated recurrence of foot-and-mouth disease in England renders improbable the early removal of Canadian restrictions prohibiting the importation of ruminants and swine from the United Kingdom, inasmuch as the infection of the disease has apparently either secured a definite foothold in England or is being conveyed there from the continent in imported feedstuffs, or by some other means heretofore undetected.

Quite in line with the post-election comment of "The Farmer's Advocate," are the views of W. H. Rowley, retiring President of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, as reflected in a newspaper summary of his recent presidential address: "Pray observe that I do not advocate a higher tariff, or even a high tariff. Our association and the individual members who compose it would be ill-advised to ask for material increases in the rates of duty. The vote of the people cannot be distorted into a building permit to heighten the tariff wall, but it endorses the policy of reasonable, moderate, fair and practical protection; beyond that it does not go."

Roof the Silo Neatly.

A roof on the silo is not absolutely necessary for the preservation of the feed; indeed, a certain amount of rain coming through an open top is believed to be an advantage in some cases. But to exclude sparrows and winter snow, as well as for appearance sake, we strongly counsel roofing. Sparrows eat great quantities of grain in the course of a winter, besides scratching up half an inch or an inch each day, facilitating deterioration of the exposed layer. By keeping out these pests, a roof might soon pay for itself. Another advantage is that, in filling, one can blow the roof full, and level it down in a day or so after the fermenting corn has settled.

By all means build a roof, and, while about it, build a neat one, with a good pitch, two dormers (one extending over the chute, and another for filling), and a liberal cornish, finished with fascia and soffit. It will cost some dollars extra, but it is worth while. A cement silo should last a lifetime. The roof is conspicuous, and should be finished with the same care as the roof of a barn. A skimpy cornice gives a cheap, bald appearance, out of keeping with the finish of the well-built barn usually adjoining, and it is an eyesore as long as it lasts. A silo is built for utility, is of all feed storages the most economical, and is still a very profitable investment, even when the capital cost has been increased by ten or twelve dollars for appearance sake. In years to come you will consider it well spent, particularly when you view your steading from a distance. A neatly-roofed silo carries out the style and spirit of a thrifty, well-ordered farm.

Lessons from the West.

An extended review of this season's crops in the Western Provinces and farm conditions there, in the Grain-growers' Guide, issued in Manitoba, contains a very frank statement of the situation and some plain talk regarding the future plans of Westerners. It is pointed out that, despite the immense yield of grain, the financial returns will be far short of what has been anticipated. "Hail, frost and rain have wrought havoc that cannot be estimated. Thousands of acres of grain will never be cut, and thousands that will be cut will not reimburse the owner for his outlay in seed and labor. It has been estimated that the total yield of wheat for the Prairie Provinces would be upwards of 180,000,000 bushels, but of this probably more than one-half will be damaged and reduced in grade. There will be an abnormal amount of low-grade wheat this year, and it will require every effort to find a market for it. One of the fortunate features of the situation is that where the drouth ruined the crop last year, the damage this season is not generally severe. In the southern portion of the West the damage has not been so severe as in the central and northern portions. Last year, farmers were forced to the conclusion that, wherever possible, all their eggs should not be placed in one basket, because, in case of accidents, the loss was too heavy to bear. This year, though for different reasons, the result is the same."

It is pointed out that leading farmers are of one mind in urging the prosecution of other branches of farming along with wheat-growing, if there is to be stability, although the water prob-

lem is a serious one militating against stock-raising and dairying in many sections, but, generally speaking, the Provinces are well suited to these industries.

The Western labor problem for farm and home grows more acute under the hazardous one-crop system, which is adverse to real homemaking, and also because of the drift from prairie farms to the towns. A halt is, therefore, called to present tendencies, before results become more serious and chronic.

From the foregoing observations, one wholesome incidental lesson may be drawn, which a good many who went West this season and last have learned for themselves. It brings down to realities the dreams of rapid and easy fortune-making in the wheat fields, and will have a tendency to awaken real appreciation of the privileges and opportunities in Eastern Canada, where farming can be carried on under the safest and most favorable conditions to be found anywhere in the wide, wide world. Let us settle down to business.

Hold up Market Values.

"I'm afraid we can't do business with you. You know the value of apples too well," remarked a local wholesale fruit dealer to whom we had made preliminary overtures for the sale of the apple crop in "The Farmer's Advocate" Demonstration Orchard. "I've just contracted with a farmer out towards — way for a hundred barrels of Spies at \$2.00 a barrel, delivered," he confessed. We have no criticism of the farmer who sold No. 1 Spies at \$2.00 a barrel. He doubtless did the best he could with the knowledge he had. At the same time, to the buyer he was "an easy mark." It is just such producers, uninformed as to true market values, who enable buyers to bear the market down with reports of purchases at low prices, as they have persistently sought to do this year. On the other hand, when a wide-awake individual or company or co-operative association sells good fruit at three dollars and upwards a barrel, f.o.b., as some have already done this year—prices somewhere proportionate to the value of the apple, as compared with Southern fruits—the sale of neighbors' produce is aided. Choice winter apples at three dollars a barrel are cheap, compared to imported oranges, bananas and grapefruit at the lowest counter prices. Produce a good clean article. Market it honestly in attractive form. Study market conditions closely, and take conscientiously as high a price as your product will command in any ordinary season. When buyers shy off, you have the alternatives of storing—cold storage, where practicable—or shipping on your own account to Western or English markets. Sale at home is very desirable for small growers, but, remembering the alternatives, keep a stiff upper lip and do not let buyers have prices all their own way. It is time the seller of farm produce had a turn.

Heavy withdrawals of money from banks in Germany, and from industrial enterprises, followed the recent possible outbreak of war with France, because of the Morocco trouble.

"New Subscriber" wishes to know if rain-water, applied with a wind brush, can be recommended as a paint or preservative for farm implements. Many have tried it, but the results are not gratifying.