

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or 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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schools should be broadened, and not narrowed. It will not broaden them to teach how to spray apple trees and how to grow beets, unless with this you give to the pupils a knowledge of language and of mankind.

God knew how to make a man when he put a hand on each side of him and a head on top. These factors must work together, and should be educated together. Agriculture is the one industry that has close relations with all the sciences.

Every country school-building should be in the middle of half a dozen acres laid out as a garden, orchards and lawns. Half of the education of the children should be out of doors. Every child should have his own plot, and be taught to apply in the soil the information which he acquires from his books and teachers. In this way you get a wholesome education that bears upon our social welfare, as well as for the individual welfare of the pupils.

When our school forces are rightly directed, it will bring the old and the young into a close co-operation with the school—not the school-house, but the school farm—as the center.

It follows that we must have a new sort of teacher. The whole entourage has got to be made over. Our Normal schools must send us persons trained to a delicate and intimate acquaintance with Nature. Inspired themselves, they will inspire the pupils to that sort of apprehension which makes of them the most practical people, and at the same time poets. They must come to us with sufficient knowledge of life and growth—in other words, of the evolution that is going on about them—to enable them to unlock the doors for the boys and girls that are entrusted to them. In this way only can we secure that sort of rural education that fits our young people for progressive farm life.

It follows, once more, that we must have a new sort of rural life; a new home and a new farm, and a new agriculture. When we get the right sort of teaching and the right sort of inspiring, for these things ought always to go together, the study of Nature and farm work will be coincident. Instead of rural life being drudgery, it will be full of enterprise, intellectual

energy and interest. It will be a humanizing work. There is no other occupation that anywhere compares with agriculture, provided it be real culture. Our difficulty all along has not been so much with the old-fashioned farmer as with the fact that the young farmers, or those who ought to have been farmers, have been filled with aspirations for getting away from the land, and going into what is conceitedly termed "business." We hold that there is no business on earth more complex, more full of enterprise, than farming. It involves a full knowledge of creating, or producing, of economizing and of marketing. The man will surely fail at farming in these days who is not well up to the age.

What we want is a better-educated farmer, and the land brought up to its highest capacity. We have not come anywhere near this high-land mark, and we never shall do it until the country school stands behind the movement.

HORSES

Only sound mares should be used for breeders on any farm.

Good grade mares should replace the scrubs that are now in use on so many farms. If they cannot be bought, they can be raised.

Sound, muscular sires of size and draft conformation, used year after year without change of breed or type, will in a few years build up a vastly better type of horses than now exists in most communities.

Stallions require about as much care now as at any season of the year. They must have regular exercise, good feed and fresh air. Regular work at the ordinary tasks of the farm should form the programme for every draft stallion.

Begin now to form that association in your community for improved horse-breeding. Join with your neighbors in making plans regarding next season's stallion, and carry those plans through. Then get some better mares than you now have.

There should be a pure-bred draft mare or two of the very best type available on many of our farms. We are not raising enough desirable breeding stock in our own country, and are depending too much on imported stock to ever build up a successful horse business.

Colts at Fairs.

The absence of any large number of colts is a conspicuous feature of all our larger exhibitions. Interest in the aged-stallion class is apparent; in the three-year-old stallion class it is keen, while the two-year-olds usually represent the breeders' and importers' fullest strength, but the yearling and colt awards are usually more or less a matter of form. In the mare classes, much the same condition pertains, though there is generally less strength in all the female classes than is shown in the males. In the older rings, the greater part of the exhibition at the larger fairs is imported stock. Until we direct attention, time and intelligent effort to the encouragement of the colts and, after them, the yearlings, we can scarcely expect to build up a strong home-bred draft-horse industry. In the minds of a good many keen and capable observers, there is scarcely that growth in our home breeding of horses that should now be in evidence in much of Eastern Canada, especially when we consider the number of excellent imported animals that have served as foundation stock in the territory. Good sires have not been wanting throughout these Provinces, but any marked and lasting influence, as displayed in outstanding progeny, is not sufficiently in evidence. One, though not the only reason that is responsible for this, has been the shabby, careless treatment of the colts. Too many of them have not had the proper mothers, and of those that have had, too many have been ruined in the making by an injudicious proportion of fresh air, exercise and good feed, or by the lack of some one or all of these elements.

The colts must be carefully developed, well fed, exercised, kept healthy and strong. The fair is only one way of centering interest in them; over and above anything that can be done by such bodies is the interest which a few practical men can arouse by demonstrating that on the average farms colts can be grown into first-class horses. Plans should be made now to give the colts this fall and winter a fair chance for their full development.

Buying Advice.

The time to buy is when the stuff is in the market, and the time to get stallions or pure-bred mares which will be an improvement upon one's previous stock, is to go after them when they are most plentiful. Just now, the season's importations of pure-bred stock are changing hands; importers and breeders are disposing of their season's accumulations of the various breeds of stock. Their moneys are tied up in this stock, and there is risk and expense in carrying them any length of time; consequently, the importers, as well as the home breeders, stand ready at this season to dispose of their season's importations. There are many stallions, and still more mares, that will be sold before Christmas, either at private sale or public auction. These animals represent the great bulk of opportunities open to breeders to improve their stock; and those who do not obtain what they need in the next month or six weeks will find it much more difficult and expensive to buy what they want until another year passes. The man who buys at the last minute sacrifices the opportunity of selection, and usually pays proportionately higher. As good practice, purchasing of pure-bred mares or stallions along in the spring is about as frequently successful as death-bed conversions are in outwitting the Ruling Spirit in the Realm of the Lost. There is much argument in favor of early buying, and usually much advantage.

One of the foremost horse-breeders in America, who constantly maintains upwards of one hundred head, of various ages, writes this: "In my experience of twenty-five years in pasturing horses on alfalfa, results have convinced me that it produces more bone, muscle and blood in horses in less time than any other pasturage with which I am acquainted. But I believe it profitable, in raising the best horses, to use, also, a moderate grain ration, to stimulate rapid growth and early development. My horses, however, have shown no ill-effects from pasturing on alfalfa, without grain or other feed, and I have found such pasturage conducive to health and prolificacy, maturing animals equal for service to any reared otherwise. I have raised three-year-olds grown on alfalfa and a light grain ration to exceed a ton in weight, carrying all the good qualities of the breed to which they belonged. Further, I find using alfalfa as a horse pasture a much more economical method of raising horses than any other."—[From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa"]

The windows in a horse stable should be so arranged that the horses are not required to stand for hours with the full glare of the sun shine in their eyes. They should be in the south wall, preferably, but not if the stable has been so arranged that a row of stalls faces directly on the south wall. In laying out a stable, it is well to keep this fact in mind, and so plan the arrangement of stalls that the horses will stand tail to or side to the south. Then, that wall may carry a large part of the windows needed to light the building. Preferably, the light entering a stable should fall on the horses from the rear.

The owners of mares should decide what stallion shall be used in their breeding operations. In many sections now there is little or no influence exerted by breeders to obtain the services of any particular stallion; the community passively takes whatever may come its way. Even then, if more than one horse travels through a settlement, too many breeders allow the persuasive powers of the stallioner, rather than the excellence of the animal, to determine their selection. Is it much to be wondered at that horse improvement is slow in such districts?

Four sires are represented by two new 2:10 trotters each this season so far. Peter the Great, 2:07½, has Peter O'Donna, 2:08, and Miss Stokes (2), 2:09½; The Bondsman has Colorado E. (3), 2:05½, has Margate, 2:08½, and Maud Caesar, 2:09½; while Sidney Dillon has Lou Billings (3), 2:08½, and Helen Stiles, 2:09½. A few years ago it was a great honor to a sire to be in the list of 2:10 sires at all. Now, the strife is to see how many 2:10 trotters can be placed to the credit of a sire in a single season.

Do not lose sight of that question, "What is the Cost of Horse-power on the Farm?" There is much that needs to be known and be more specifically set down on this subject. You who are working the horses on farms are the men to most readily answer the question. Let us hear from you.