

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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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.
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courses are taught on subjects such as hygiene and sanitation, and city homes are protected from outbreaks of disease by efficient health departments which rank among the strongest and most important among all the branches of municipal government. Medical inspection of schools is regular and thorough, and, in addition, is carried on by trained specialists in child welfare work.

The natural handicap of living in the city must always remain, but it is minimized as much as science and medical skill can bring this about until, in spite of this huge handicap, the actual degree of health in city schools is greater than at present exists in rural schools. Is there need for medical inspection of rural school pupils? Undoubtedly there is, since wherever man goes he disturbs the balance of nature, and when this is done there spring up, immediately, numerous ways by which these disturbances are reflected upon man himself. He must, therefore, take precautionary measures to offset the conditions he himself has brought about, thus gradually contributing to the complexity of modern civilization.

Thus the natural conditions of country life are frequently disturbed by polluted streams, oftentimes unsanitary conditions about the house or outbuildings, and, too often it is to be feared, by lack of knowledge as to proper methods of feeding and clothing. The child who can live through these unnatural conditions in the country will grow up incalculably stronger than his city cousin who never sees the open country and who never can experience abundant fresh air and "clean" dirt. Medical inspection of all our rural schools will eventually come as a measure of self-preservation for rural people, and we ought to have it now. Eye trouble, adenoids, throat trouble, faulty digestion and other ills due to teeth that are poorly cared for, are more common by far than is generally supposed, and it behooves us to act wisely so as to restore to our children the healthy condition which should be their heritage because they live in the country.

The charges made in the House of Commons on May 22 by A. B. Copp, of New Brunswick, included several alleged offences, chief among which was the declaration that electors in non-combatant regiments overseas were threatened with transfer to the fighting line if they did not mark their ballots as instructed by the Deputy Presiding Officer. This is too serious a statement to pass over without an investigation. The air should be cleared in respect to such an allegation, and the Canadian people, for whom these men overseas are doing valiant service, would be glad to learn that the charges were groundless.

### How the Farmer Loafs.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

A few days ago the following letter appeared in one of our city newspapers, a "leading daily", to use their own term for describing their position and occupation. We give it word for word as it comes from the pen of a self-appointed critic of the farmers, who, to do him justice, signs his full name to his epistle. Here is his letter:

"What does the farmer actually do in the way of work to justify his exemption from war service? In many parts of this country a very few days work in the spring puts in all the grain he grows, and, as far as my observation goes, the crop is left entirely to the Almighty's goodness until the autumn, when it is cut by machinery into sheaves, and a little later it is threshed by machinery and sold. His women folks, in many parts of the country, milk the cattle and some very juvenile members of his family bring the cows from pasture in summer and feed them in the winter time. Just contrast this with the eight to ten hours labor put in by women and girls every day in Montreal, to say nothing of men."

The reading of the foregoing will affect different people in different ways. The average farmer will treat it as a joke, as his sense of humor has been pretty well developed. Others will get "mad" and call the writer a fool that knows nothing of what he is writing about, which estimate will probably be not far from correct. But still others there are who will be inclined to believe it all, as their habit is to believe all they see in print without taking the trouble to think the matter out for themselves and get at the probabilities. And there are a good many who have a sort of grudge at the farmers these days, who would rather believe a letter like the one we have quoted, than not. It agrees with their ideas. For the benefit of these last-mentioned individuals the other side of the case should be given. The saying is that there are two sides to every story, so we may as well try to find the other side of this one. The best way for all interested parties would be for them to go on a farm and acquire the knowledge from personal experience. But since all are not able to do that perhaps they will accept information in a second-hand sort of way from one on the farm who has spent there all the time that has been allotted to him so far. From the time I "kicked" on going any longer to school and started in to work on the farm I have never been able to gather up enough material to make out a case against the farmer, if we were to have him up on a charge of loafing. We have heard of the man who was so fond of work that he would "lie down beside it", but I have actually known men that seemed to have a sort of craze for manual labor in some form and who kept going during every hour of daylight, or until they were "played out". One farmer I was acquainted with used to run from the field to the house when the dinner-horn blew and then run back to his work after he had bolted the pork and potatoes necessary to keep him going until he was again interrupted at suppertime. Work becomes very fascinating, no doubt, but I never felt myself carried away by it to any such extent as that. Another man I knew of made a habit of working out in the bush until dark in the winter-time, then coming in and doing the chores, which included the feeding of seventy head of cattle, besides other stock in proportion, and this feeding meant the carrying of silage in bags from a silo located about two hundred feet from the stables. A day of this length ought to compare favorably even with the "eight or ten hours labor" mentioned by our friend, the critic.

I remember, sometimes, in my early days on the farm, of going to work for the neighbors when I could be spared from our own work at home. My idea was to earn some pocket-money and I was never left in any doubt of the fact that I *did* earn it. One man I worked for used to continue putting in hay by star-light whenever his plans did not mis-carry. "I don't know how it is," he said one night, "but every time I have you with me we seem to have to work after dark." "Perhaps," I replied, "it's because we don't knock off at sun-down." But he was too thick-skinned for hints to make any impression on him. When he came to pay me up he asked me if fifty cents a day would be "about right." "Yes, I said, "It's more than I expected." Of course, this doesn't prove that the farmer is a generous, open-handed man, without exception, but it did prove, to my satisfaction, at least, that they were, as a rule, pretty hard workers. And my early impressions have never had to be revised. Later on I worked with my team for another farmer who was taking out saw-logs in fulfillment of a contract he had made. We used to get up at three o'clock in the morning to feed our horses and considered ourselves lucky if we got back to camp, on the last trip, by dark. And after supper we would generally have to go back over our road with an axe and a shovel and fix the cuts and holes we had made during the day.

Some will say that the days are short in the winter and if a man is to get anything done at all he must work after dark and before daylight, but I have heard cheesemakers say that in some districts they have been in the hay field in milk for farmers who were so early at the factory that they had to light a match to see the figures on the scales, and this in the longest days of the summer. Now men don't do this sort of thing without getting the habit, and what is more, they give the habit to others. There is nothing more catching than an example set by a man of some influence in the community, be the example good or bad. It was by this means, we may be sure, that we country people have become the early and late workers that we can claim to be, if we consider it a matter of credit. And I suppose it is, for it goes some way towards proving that we are not lazy, at least.

In making a mental estimate of the farmers with whom I am acquainted I have come to the conclusion that easily ninety per cent. of them are what may fairly be called hard workers, if long hours and close application to business will put them in that class. And the city-bred man who writes to the papers charging them with loafing had better hire out for the summer with some energetic member of the class he is disparaging and he may quite possibly be induced to revise the opinions to which he has been giving expression. Anyway he will then speak with the voice of experience and we will be glad to listen to him.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

Insects which do a great deal of damage to seasoned hardwood are the Lyctus beetles. The larvæ of these beetles, which are little grubs, yellowish-white in color, ranging from one-eighth to one-fifth of an inch in length, bore extensive galleries in the wood, often completely riddling it and rendering it useless.

The Lyctus beetles do not attack hardwood until it has been seasoned for at least eight months, as the chemical changes which take place in the process of seasoning render the nutritive substances in the wood, such as the sugar and starch, especially suitable for the development of the larvæ. They never attack heartwood, but confine their operations entirely to sapwood. These beetles attack not only stored hardwood in the form of lumber, but also a great variety of manufactured articles, including the woodwork of farm machinery, handles, hubs, spokes, shafts, doors, flooring, staircases, tables, chairs, etc., etc. Hickory, ash and oak are the kinds of wood most liable to injury, but the black walnut, butternut, elm, maple, poplar, locust, bamboo and other woods are also attacked. Infested wood may be detected by the fine, flour-like powder found on or beneath the wood. During the first year of infestation the powder comes from exceedingly minute holes in the wood, but after the second year the small holes from which the adult beetles have emerged are more or less conspicuous, and from these the powder will fall when the infested material is moved or jarred. When the wood is cut or split the interior is found to be converted into a mass of closely-packed, powdery material which has been held together by an outer shell and intervening fibres of sound wood. The grubs, burrowing through the wood in all directions have pulverized the wood fibre and packed their burrows with this powdered wood.

The Lyctus beetles are small, slender, somewhat flattened, brownish beetles from one-tenth to one-fifth of an inch in length. The female on emerging from the wood lays her egg in a pore of the wood. The minute larva which hatches from this egg proceeds to burrow in and through the wood in all directions, feeding and growing as it proceeds, until it has attained full size. It then excavates a cell at the end of its burrow, and in this it transforms to a pupa. Later the pupa changes to the adult which emerges and seeks a suitable place in which to deposit its eggs. Each female lays about sixty eggs. There is but one generation per year, and the adults emerge from April to August.

The larvæ remain dormant, or become active in the wood, according to the temperature, and as a consequence the infestation of wood stored in cold places may pass unnoticed.

The damage due to Lyctus beetles causes a loss which falls on the manufacturer, the dealer and the owner. The producer of the crude product is not affected, because it is only after the wood has been seasoned that it is attacked by these insects. Second-growth sapwood of the best quality is particularly liable to damage, especially when it has been stored in the same place for two or three years. In the case of manufactured articles, such as handles and hardwood flooring, this pest may be exterminated by the application of kerosene oil. The application must be thorough, so as to soak the wood, as a light wash over the surface will not have much effect. This should be done between October and March. In the case of stocks of stored hardwood there is no satisfactory method of treatment which will prevent attack, as any such method is likely to interfere with subsequent processes used in the course of manufacture, such as staining, etc. But loss may be prevented by careful inspection of stored material, and the U. S. Bureau of Entomology gives the following directions in methods of prevention:

Inspect material in yards and store-houses annually, especially stock two or more years old, preferably in November and February, and sort out and burn all material showing evidences of attack.

Classify all seasoned hardwood as (a) hickory, ash, oak, etc.; (b) heartwood, pure sapwood, part sapwood, and (c) according to the number of years it has been seasoned.

Prevent the accumulation of old stock.

Prevent the accumulation of refuse material in which the insects can breed.

Use only heartwood piling sticks in lumber piles.

Inspect all new stock to prevent the introduction into lumber yards and store-houses of infested material.

Treat all valuable pieces of manufactured material as soon as possible with varnish or paraffin wax, which effectively closes the pores and thus prevents the deposition of eggs.

### Breeding

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