

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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This is the cry of the nineteenth century. To be in line with the times it is necessary that every farmer should have his agricultural journal. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE gives the freshest facts in connection with every branch of agricultural industry. Everything of importance in the conduct of the farmer's business is duly dealt with by competent, practical men in its columns. Can you therefore not induce your friends to subscribe? Only \$1 (one dollar) a year is required to have the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, with its immense budget of news for the breeder, farmer, dairyman, fruit-grower, and poultry-keeper. We will be pleased to send specimen copies to any who apply by post-card or otherwise for them.

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The collie dog and other premiums bid fair to be as popular this season as ever, and the new features fully equal to the old.

We desire every farmer in Canada to have the very best available in agricultural journalism in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. In order to bring this about we make the unparalleled offer of extending the term of any present subscriber to the paper for one year, providing he or she sends us two new paid-up subscribers at one dollar each.

Bear in mind, the balance of this year, our superb 1897 Christmas Number (about which you will hear more in next issue), and all of 1898 for \$1. No such quantity of high-class, practical and really helpful matter can be got for so small an outlay in any other way.

Do people appreciate the FARMER'S ADVOCATE on the ground of actual merit? From scores of similar references recently received we select a few:

"Have taken it twenty years. An excellent farming paper, full of valuable information."—David Robertson, Middlesex Co., Ont.

"Holds its own against all others."—C. A. Cass, L'Orignal, P. Q.

"Every farmer should take and read the FARMER'S ADVOCATE thoroughly."—Alfred Judd, Simcoe Co., Ont.

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"Times will indeed be hard in the future if I cannot spare a dollar for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE."—Arch. D. Kerr, Huron Co., Ont.

The Farmers' Thanksgiving.

The recurrence of our national Thanksgiving Day will be full of interest to the agriculturist this year. If any class of the people have more cause than another to be thankful for the blessings of the year, it is the farmers. Last year times were hard, as they had been for several years previously. Prices were low and crops short; but even then the thoughtful farmer could find much cause for gratitude in the review of the year, inasmuch as things were not nearly so bad as they might have been. But this year he has experienced the upward turn in the times which we predicted a year ago, and with good crops and improved prices for most articles of farm produce and for all classes of stock a feeling of courage, confidence, and hope is inspired which wakens pleasing sensations in the mind, and a cheerful spirit prevails where a year ago the discouragement which comes from hope deferred was depressing the heart of many a struggling farmer.

The blessing of national peace, at home and in our relations with our neighbors, continues to be ours to enjoy, and this is always cause for thankfulness, more than we are prone to realize and which we fail to appreciate at its true value to the individual, to homes, and to society. The health of the people generally has been good, epidemic diseases have been happily averted, no destructive storms of any considerable magnitude have been experienced, and only in two or three limited districts have forest and prairie fires brought disaster and sorrow to the homes of sufferers, and to these we tender our sincerest sympathy. The harvest in nearly if not all the provinces has been fully an average one, if not more, while in nearly the whole of Western Ontario fall wheat was an abundant crop, and in Manitoba and the Northwest, wheat, besides being above the average in yield, was secured in first-class condition and ranks uniformly high in quality. The improved prices prevailing for wheat at this time last year, and which we ventured to predict would probably be maintained, being founded on the bedrock of demand growing out of a short supply, have been realized and are at present fully up to those paid at the corresponding date of last year, while the prospect is that the good prices now prevailing will continue for the coming year.

The live stock trade has been good, the demand both for breeding and feeding cattle having been active at improved prices, while the export trade has been the largest in its history and the returns to the farmer and feeder very satisfactory. The demand, principally from the United States, for breeding sheep has been extraordinary; and while prices have not ruled high, a very large number have changed hands, and at prices considerably in advance of those of last year. The market for hogs has been steady at good paying prices all through the year, and farmers have benefited by this more than for many years previously. The season has been unusually favorable for dairying, both on account of the pastures remaining fresh through the summer months and the steady demand for cheese at good paying prices. The butter market has ruled low, but is improving, and the prospect is good for the future since the arrangements for shipment in cold storage to distant markets are nearly completed and will probably bring good results during the coming year. The fruit crop has probably on the whole been an average one, and the specialists in this line have had a good year. The apple crop, the farmer's stand-by, has been deficient in many districts, while in others it has been very fair, and the prices obtained have made it very profitable. Small fruits were abundant, and the people find themselves on the whole well supplied. The barns of the farmers are full of good fodder for winter feeding, and the animals will enjoy what, in many sections, they have not in the last two years, a good bedding of straw, which is abundant. With peace and plenty prevailing, to complain would be a shame, and gratitude to a beneficent Providence should be the dominant sentiment.

Really good live stock may cost a trifle more at the outset, but when the satisfaction of seeing it is felt, and the handsome returns for food consumed are realized, the wonder is why so many waste their time with scrub sorts.

Late chickens are always a doubtful investment. The meat they will put on in cold weather is worth less than the value of the eggs that ought to be laid in the same time by an equal number of early pullets. Only the man who cannot make hens lay in winter should bother with fall chickens. Winter growth is slow, costly growth, and will not pay at all unless a good price is obtained for the product.

NEEDS OF THE CANADIAN BACON TRADE

Important Letter from the William Davies Packing Company.

SUPPLIES OF LIVE HOGS—FUTURE PROSPECTS—OLD-FASHIONED STUFF NOT WANTED—POINTS ON BREEDING AND FEEDING FROM THE PACKER'S STANDPOINT.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—You ask first, "Do you find supplies of live hogs sufficiently numerous and regular throughout the year?" We reply, they are not sufficiently numerous if the supply was regular and constant; but it is "now a feast and then a famine." The deliveries in October, November, December, and April and May are about double any other five months in the year. This is the time when, as a rule, bacon is cheapest in England, and the very large supplies depress prices to a ruinous point to the exporter of bacon, and to a disappointing price for hogs to the producer. We know some farmers who arrange to have their hogs ready for sale in July and August when prices are high; and mark you, they are high then, not so much because of scarcity as because that is the time when the English people eat bacon and hams. Canadian farmers are now standing in their own light by all having them for sale at once. Canadian bacon is making a name for itself, and we think will before very long take the place alongside Danish, which will mean more to Canadian farmers than they have any idea of; but that position can only be attained and kept by our having a regular supply. During September, the agents for Canadian bacon in England could not supply their customers' wants. This led to a good deal of heartburning and dissatisfaction. We paid in August and September 5½c. and 6c. for prime singers, and are now paying 4½c. At this latter price we shall be more than pleased if we can get out without serious loss. Doubtless some farmers will say the spring pigs are ready in October, and the fall pigs are ready in April and May; but these things can very largely be controlled. Of course it will require attention and care, but the extra price obtained will pay for that.

2nd. You ask, "Would you say that the prospective demand will warrant increasing stocks beyond what they have been during the past year?" Our reply is, that while we would not advise anyone to rush heedlessly into hog raising and feeding, we believe that a steady increase will prove satisfactory to the producer, and will be necessary to bacon-curers doing a successful export business.

3rd. Replying to your question, "What points of difference, if any, are there between Canadian and British or foreign trade that have a bearing on the work of the breeders and feeders?" The excellent mild cured bacon that is now manufactured is alike pleasing to English people and Canadians, and for town and city trade has entirely driven out the old-fashioned stuff that was as salt as Lot's wife and warranted to keep for seven years. It was fit to go to the Klondyke. Nowadays the cities and towns demand and even farmers buy this mild cured meat, but there is a demand for a considerable quantity in Canada of coarser meat for mess pork and long, clear bacon. This is used in the back country and by contractors for feeding the hands who are building railways and such work. For this purpose heavy hogs are required (also for mess pork for lumbermen); but as this sells at a low price, of course the hogs bring only a proportionate figure. The Canadian hog is particularly adapted for a fine class of English trade in London and the Provinces. Therefore, it would seem to be to the interest of producers that they should raise the kind of hogs suitable for the export business. We are pleased to say Canadian farmers have, on the whole, responded very handsomely to the earnest suggestions of the export packers, and have bred the right style of pigs, but more attention is required to feeding. The majority err in keeping them shut up and feeding too much grain or meal; they should, till four months old, have plenty of exercise and rough, coarse food. This develops them; the former plan stunts them. We want them long and fleshy.

As remarked above, Canadian farmers are doing well, but in their haste to market their hogs are forcing them too rapidly, shutting them up and feeding strong food from the start. The consequence is while there is only a moderate showing of fat all down the back, there is too much fat all through the side. This is a very serious fault, and will lower the character of our bacon in England, and we are in great danger of losing the ground already won. This really must have the earnest attention of farmers. Let the pigs have the run of a large yard or small field with a shelter. It is impossible to overrate the importance of this. We have been paying 1c. to 2c. per lb live weight for Canadian hogs in excess of American, and the difference can only be maintained by vigilance and close attention to the points we have named. Many farmers suppose because we ask for lean hogs we want them thin, and that scallwags fill the bill—a grievous mistake. Fed as we have described, and finished off with meal from mixed grain to weigh 160 to 180 lbs. alive, they will fill the bill to perfection. But here we must warn farmers not to feed them too fat; if they do, they will not bring within half cent of No. 1, and perhaps even a greater difference. The buyers of Canadian Wiltshire bacon