

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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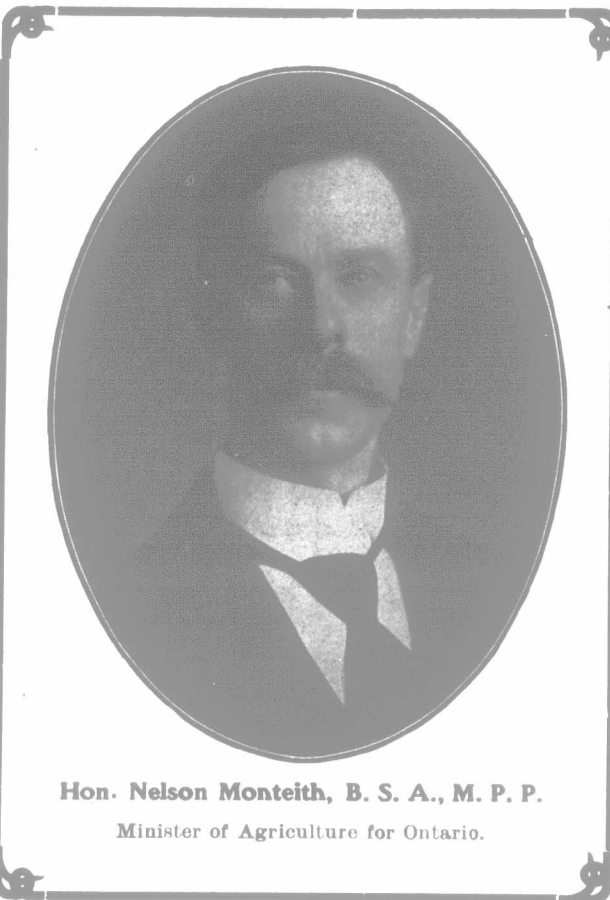
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### The New Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

Agriculture, the greatest of the industries of Ontario, will be represented in the new Provincial Cabinet by the Hon. Samuel Nelson Monteith, M. P. P., B. S. A., of Stratford, Ont. In the selection of Mr. Monteith, the Premier, Hon. Mr. Whitney, has evidently recognized, among other considerations, that the Minister of Agriculture must be a practical farmer, for reasons which were set forth at some length in these columns a few issues ago. He has also in his choice recognized the fact that agriculture is a pursuit in which intelligence is, above and beyond all else, the prime requisite. Surveying the eligible members-elect, he selects a man recognized as a thorough and progressive farmer, who, out of preference, has successfully pursued that industry. At an early date, Mr. Monteith realized that he owed something to his manhood and to his position as a farmer, and, in addition to securing a good general education, he took a course at the Ontario Agricultural College, from which he graduated as a B. S. A. in 1890. The old O. A. C. should feel proud to-day that a former student has won his way to the very highest position in connection with this industry in the gift of the Province, the agriculture of which stands without a peer upon the continent. We feel sure that the cause of the College and of agricultural education generally will have in Mr. Monteith a most sympathetic administrator. Seeing that agriculture must be progressive or nothing, Mr. Monteith associated himself with various efforts for its intelligent advancement, being a past President of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, and rendering efficient service in Farmers' Institute work as a speaker who combined science with practice. In public offices he developed experience as a municipal township councillor, reeve, county councillor, warden of the county of Perth, and member of the Provincial Legislature, so that

his natural sagacity, resourcefulness, practical experience and technical knowledge have had a lengthy and valuable training.

Mr. Monteith was born in the township of Downie, Perth County, on November 21st, forty-two years ago. His father, Mr. Samuel Monteith, and his mother, both came to Canada from the north of Ireland, though the family was of Scottish origin. He is a nephew of Andrew Monteith, who represented Perth County, both in the Provincial Legislature and in the House of Commons, at the time of Confederation. In his farming operations, he has made a specialty of dairying and feeding cattle for the British markets, with very gratifying success. He is a member of the Church of England. In a speech in Toronto since his acceptance of the portfolio, Mr. Monteith laid it down as a working principle that the Department of Agriculture is a non-political department. Men of both political parties work side by side in the great live-stock organizations



Hon. Nelson Monteith, B. S. A., M. P. P.  
Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

of the country, in the Farmers' Institutes, at the Agricultural College, Guelph, and in that even greater factor of progress, the agricultural press. He assumed, with native modesty, the heavy responsibility now imposed on him as the representative of a constituency of half a million farmers, with monetary interests reaching about one billion dollars. "These are the men," said he, "whose welfare turns the wheels of industry, and whose success is the success of every man within the Province. Agriculture is a co-operative avocation, in which we must all work together for the common good." The "Farmer's Advocate" congratulates Mr. Monteith upon the honor which he has earned, and assures him of its best wishes and hearty co-operation in sustaining the best traditions of his Department, and developing an administration that will make for the advancement of our people as self-reliant, intelligent and successful men and women of the highest type.

### Sugar Beet Pulp.

The attention of readers who have had experience in feeding the pulp from beet-sugar factories is especially directed to the four prizes offered elsewhere in this issue for the best letters dealing with this subject, based upon their own experience. The conditions are simple. Send in your contributions at an early date.

### Best Investment.

W. L. Davidson, Bethel, Que., says: "I have taken the 'Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine' for the last fourteen years, and I consider it one of the very best investments I have ever made. The 'Farmer's Advocate' is always a welcome visitor in our home, and the change to a weekly is highly esteemed. I think the paper ought to be in every progressive farmer's home. Wishing it every success."  
Shefford Co., Que.

## HORSES.

### Showing Draft Horses.

In these times, owing to a good demand and profitable prices, special interest is being taken in horse breeding, in horse shows, and in the horse department of live-stock shows generally. In this connection, the views of an English exhibitor, as to some points of advantage in the proper showing of draft horses for judging in the ring, as published in the Live-stock Journal, may be helpful to those having occasion to enter their horses for competition. He says, in part:

"During the past thirty years the art of bringing out heavy horses for shows in such a manner as to captivate judges and the crowd has developed a numerous army of experts, each of whom knows he is on his mettle. So far as yearlings are concerned, everyone likes to see them in the rough, their coats and feather indicating that they have been kept in the open and in no way pampered. The two-year-old has to be haltered and handled, to walk like a gentleman and stand like a well-executed statue, neither scraping nor knuckling. Tripping and dragging and all indications of slovenliness have to be got quit of, for nothing catches a judge's eye so quickly as gaiety and freedom of carriage when a colt is first brought into the ring. If it is a near thing as to bone and weight between two, carriage and action will decide the issue.

"Shoeing for the show is now very common, and much can be done in this way to bring out evenness of hoofs. To get the feather into a comb on the backs of fore and hind legs, if the bone is round, is often a matter of difficulty, but is eventually overcome by repeated applications of the wooden brush. Soap and sawdust are rather to be deprecated, as both stallions and mares should be what they are wanted to reproduce, and not mere stage figures dressed for appearances.

"Once in the ring, a good deal depends on the leader. He ought to be sound in his wind to begin with, for if a good pace is made at the trot, he will have to let the horse drag him, whereas for a good show there should be absolute freedom of the head. He should also be an even, regularly paced walker, always equal to keeping pace at a walk with his charge. When ranged up, he should mind his own horse, giving an occasional glance in the direction of ring steward or judges."

### Points of a Hackney.

Commencing with the head, it may be said of this most important Hackney point that it should be, comparatively speaking, wide at the jaw and taper gently towards the muzzle, the eyes being of a good size, so as to, in conjunction with the shape and dimensions of the head, convey into the mind of the observer an impression of strength, intelligence and courage combined with quality. A very small, effeminate-looking head-piece is almost as objectionable in a Hackney as a heavy one.

The neck should be of fair length, nicely bent, and rather thick at the setting on, though free from coarseness; whilst the chest must be wide, and let down behind the forearms, so as to allow plenty of space for the heart and lungs.

The shoulders of the Hackney, as in the case of all riding horses, should be free from all that superfluous lumber which only brings coarseness in its train. They should lay well back, and the bones should be long enough, forming, as they do, the attachment of the muscle serratus magnus, which connects the fore limbs and trunk. If these bones are small, the muscles must necessarily be short, and long muscles alone can afford that flexibility and liberty of shoulder action which is so characteristic of the Hackney.

The back must be long enough to allow plenty of room before and behind the saddle, and also very level and strong, whilst the loins should be compact and the quarters long and as powerful as possible without being coarse or of that coachy type which is so distasteful to many judges. The middle-piece of the Hackney is very level above and below, the ribs being well sprung, and the back ones of a nice length, so as to provide those indications of strength which are always to be eagerly sought after.

The fore legs should be short and very powerful, the arms being big and muscular, the joints large, and the bone below the knee plentiful and flat; whilst the pasterns should be of a fair length, so as to yield elasticity in action, and the feet of good size, and placed straight on under the legs.

The hind legs should possess powerful, sound thighs, strong, well-bent hocks, and ample bone, whilst the tail, which is set on rather high, should be carried gaily when the horse is fully extended.

Action is another consideration which must be taken up later. Suffice to say, approved action, as much as any other quality, fixes the selling value of the Hackney.