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The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and
Succeed."

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1866

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EDITORIAL.

It is not so essential that a public man be saying to-day precisely what he said twenty years ago, as that his purposes and plans are sound and sincere. "New occasions teach new duties."

Buy your seed early. Purchase by sample, testing both the sample and the seed received when the order has been filled. If thought necessary, a sample may be sent to the Seed Laboratory, at Ottawa, for test.

A pair of 1,700-pound drafters were purchased in Toronto by a milling company lately for \$550. Several other horses of top quality brought \$235 each. The general prices for drafters was \$180 to \$210. "Nuff said."

To refresh your memory regarding the provisions of the Seed Control Act, and get posted as to the nature of the amendments now being sought, read Mr. Raynor's article in the Farm Department of this issue.

One hesitates to comment on the price of hogs these days, lest figures mentioned will be eclipsed before the ink is dry. Who knows but that ten dollars a hundredweight will be realized for live hogs before this paragraph strikes the reader's eye?

What with ordinary and preferential, maximum and minimum tariffs, surtaxes, rebates, conventions and treaties, besides bonding and other special privileges, international tariff relationships are commencing to make Chinese puzzles look transparent and simple. Surely the reduction ad absurdum will soon be reached.

"I have only begun to realize," remarked an apple-grower and buyer to us recently, "how much I have been missing by not having your paper all these years. Since subscribing last fall, I have been delighted with it. The Christmas Number alone contained practical information worth two or three times the subscription price."

"The Farmer's Advocate" is no enemy of the dog. Most of the members of its staff keep or have kept dogs, and considerable space has been devoted in these columns to appreciative consideration of canine attributes. But we take the position that anyone who does not think enough of his dog to pay a dollar tax does not deserve to have one, and very few people need two.

There is an old saw, that those who get people into trouble should help people out of it. Those who keep dogs are the means of getting sheep owners into a great deal of trouble and expense, and it is only scant justice that they should, by means of a dog tax, contribute to a fund to partially reimburse sheep-owners who sustain losses, which for any reason cannot be recovered from the owner of the dog.

There are all kinds of ways of romancing. One of the speakers at the poultry institute, at Guelph, is reported as stating that if the \$625,000,000 income of the American hens were standardized at 5 per cent., it would place their value at \$1,500,000,000, equipment not considered. This is imagination run wild. Instead of the hen's value being placed at ten or twenty times her income, the annual income should exceed by three times her capital value. Even at that the chickens make a good showing.

An examination in milk-testing by school children was tried, with satisfactory results, at a show in Australasia. Separate papers were set for children under ten, and those between ten and thirteen. Here is a most excellent idea. Milk-testing should be done in every rural school. It would afford the very best kind of exercise in mathematics, while at the same time opening the children's eyes upon a fascinating field of great practical value, and familiarizing them with an art every cow-owner ought to know. That is the kind of agriculture to teach in the public schools.

The Ontario Government Milk Commission has issued its report dealing with the condition of the milk supply of Ontario cities, the laws at present on the statute books of the Province with reference to milk, and a comparison of these with regulations in force in other countries and cities. The situation in Ontario, in the judgment of the Commissioners, is such as to call for more rigid inspection of milk at the source of supply by Boards of Health, the establishment of infants' milk-supply depots, and the fixing of a per cent. of fat and solids standard for milk in order to prevent adulteration. They also recommend that cows showing physical signs of tuberculosis be removed from dairy herds, and that in cities of over 50,000 milk should not be sold in shops except in bottles or other sealed packages. They also believe that, after all is done, greater care of milk is needed on the part of the consumer.

That legislation enacted, pending, or morally certain to be introduced and passed, in various States to the South, will within two years practically close the market for Canadian clover and grass seeds harvested from lands that are polluted with noxious weeds, is the significant assurance of Dominion Seed Commissioner Clark. Remedy: sow clean seed, fight weeds, and, when growing seed, clean it in the field by eradicating the weeds before the crop is harvested. The time has come to make a fight for clean farms, and we cannot well do it by raising and marketing weed seeds. Mr. Clark's other statement, that, to secure the more strict observance of the Seed Control Act among farmers this year, an additional number of seed inspectors are being employed, is also worth heeding. Comply with the law, and keep out of trouble. The law requires nothing that good farming practice and business honor would not demand apart altogether from legal enactment.

Tax All Dogs.

To eliminate "the joker," by means of which an excellent dog-tax and sheep-compensation law has been rendered inoperative in many municipalities, is the main purpose of Mr. Bowyer's bill to amend the Ontario "Act for the Protection of Sheep, and to Impose a Tax on Dogs." The bill also aims to assess a double tax (\$2.00) on a second dog kept by the same owner, and to tax bitches \$5.00 apiece, instead of \$2.00, save in the case of kennels of pure-bred dogs, which might, as now, be granted a blanket certificate for the sum of \$10 per annum. This bill is in substantial accord with the tenor of the notable discussion which occurred at the Winter Fair in Guelph in December, 1906, and will commend itself to all fair-minded men as reasonable and just. The loophole in the old law, by which, on petition of 25 ratepayers, any municipal council might repeal the dog tax within its township, but which did not provide for reimposition of the tax on petition to that effect, has been a grave injustice, which should be remedied at once. The time has come to take action, and the bill ought to pass.

Barn-plan Competition.

Since the days of the pioneers in the older Provinces, a very great change has come about in the style of the farm buildings in use. Not only have the log houses of the early settlers given place to those built of lumber, brick or cement blocks, but the interior arrangements have also undergone changes almost as great. Instead of one large room serving for kitchen, dining-room and parlor, with one bedroom, in addition, on the ground floor, and the upstairs part one large, undivided, well-ventilated sleeping-apartment, no farmhouse of the present day, judging by the plans received in competition, is strictly up-to-date unless there are, besides the full complement of rooms on both first and second floors, closets to the bedrooms, a bathroom, with complete water system, conveniences such as dumb waiters in the kitchen, and all heated by furnace.

The barn buildings have also undergone like transformation. When one of the settlers of early days had at last succeeded in getting a frame barn, 30 x 50 feet, erected in addition to his log outbuildings, he felt as if there was no more to be done in that line. But, as the area under cultivation increased, and more stock was kept, additional room had to be provided, and so there was, from time to time, another little building added—a shed, horse stable, sheep house, pigpen, and by and by another barn—until at length the bill for shingles for the cluster or string of buildings became serious. Then began the era of tearing down and rebuilding in one or two compact structures all that was needed for storage of crops, the stock being housed in the basement. This era has continued until the present time. The use of cement concrete for basement walls and stable floors has aided in making this style of barn-building popular. In order to secure dryness and better insulation, air-spaces in the cement wall are desirable. Conveniences in the manner of getting fodder to animals, and in the removal of manure, combined with more systematic arrangement of stock in the stables, have reduced the labor of attending to farm animals very materially. Taken altogether, a complete set of modern farm buildings costs a good deal of money, and has quite an imposing appearance.

Fashions in the layout of stables change, as they do in everything else. We note that the use of the litter carrier has, to a considerable extent, taken the place of the team and sleigh for cleaning the stables. In harmony with this change, there is a tendency to have rows of cattle across the building, rather than, as has been the vogue in some sections, in a long double row lengthwise. The long-row stable has much to recommend it, besides the convenience of cleaning out with a team, however, and even where a litter carrier is used for that purpose, it could be handled with less trouble and fewer tracks than in a number of short cross rows. Another feature in many modern barns is the use of box stalls, which have a place in most of the plans received in competition. Cement silos, of course, are taken as an essential part of the equipment. A recoil from the system of having water constantly before stock is apparent, several having, instead, a covered yard, with water trough, where cattle may get a little exercise, as well as water.

The judges in the barn-plan competition have little hope of pleasing everybody in their decision. They were quite aware that some plans might be the very best possible for the conditions they were designed to suit, and yet not be suitable for the average farmer. Some of these are published along with those to which prizes were awarded. One competitor had far too lengthy a description, while others were scored low because