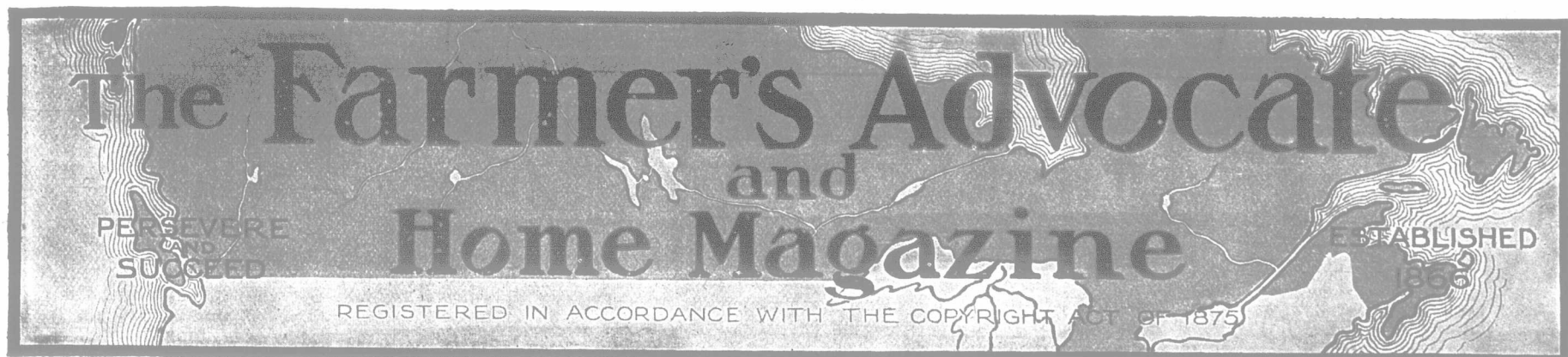


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No. 1136

EDITORIAL.

Salt the stock regularly and often.

Co-operate aright with nature and she will do her part to insure a crop.

Moisture and warmth may build a great crop, but man must hustle the harvest,

Haying and hoeing are keeping most of us hustling just now, and it pays to hurry.

Abolish the old, heavy bars and replace them with good, substantial, well-hung farm gates. They will pay for themselves in a few years in time saved.

A nice lawn well kept with a few trees and shrubs and what flowers will work in well adds to the satisfaction and comfort enjoyed evenings after a hard day in the hay or corn field.

There is little use of trying to keep the farm clean and at the same time allowing all kinds of weeds to seed along the roadsides and spread over the fields. Cut roadside weeds now if it has not already been attended to.

In last week's issue four cows were illustrated which are giving three hundred pounds of milk per day. How many of your cows does it require to give this quantity? A few good ones are more profitable than a large herd of poor individuals.

The suffragettes seem to pin their hopes on smashing their way to the franchise rather than by taking the easier, surer, safer and saner route of reasoning. Many who would otherwise be in sympathy with their movement are driven to indignation and disgust by their thoughtlessness and foolish militant tactics.

Depend upon it, if we permit the weeds to run riot over our fields, allow soil moisture needed by the corn crop to escape for want of tillage or encourage bugs and bacteria to despoil, the orchard for lack of spraying, good dame nature will work no financial miracles for us when we come to tally up the season's accounts.

Is the binder ready for the field? Most farmers know the inconvenience and loss which often results from this machine being in poor repair when the harvesting season commences. The first wet day go over it and see that everything is in order, all nuts tight, chains properly adjusted, and straps and buckles on the canvass.

We recently overheard a very significant remark at a real old-fashioned barn raising. An old gentleman remarking upon the large number present, including scores of ladies, said, "This is about the only chance farmers and their wives get to visit nowadays." There is much truth in the statement. We do not visit enough. More friendly comparing notes would be profitable. Try it.

Constant Care and Application.

Farming, no matter what branch of it is followed or made a specialty is no business for the careless, let-well-enough-alone man. If any degree of success is to be attained close and constant application to duty must be given. Not long ago we had our attention directed to an old orchard. A few months since, the farm changed hands and the neglected trees were given a very severe pruning, their trunks were scraped, and whitewashed and neighbors predicted a rejuvenated orchard yielding profitable returns. But work with the trees ceased; no spraying was done and no further attention given. As a consequence, the trees are now in very poor condition, having been visited by throngs of tent caterpillars which have almost entirely stripped them of their foliage, leaving them ugly and weakened where with a little follow-up care and attention they might have been thrusting out luxurious and sturdy new growth covered with a dark-green foliage which in a year or so would mean more and better apples.

This is simply an instance of good intentions half carried out. There is little use of starting to climb the ladder of success unless filled with the determination that what ever may come it shall not alter the plans by which complete success is to be attained. Climb all the way to the top. The steps are no harder beyond the half-way mark than below it. It is not that the work is more difficult that these seemingly little things are left half-done, but it is the ease with which some people allow small obstacles to overcome their determination to succeed. After all, most of our failures are the fault of ourselves, and could easily be changed into success by a little more constant care and application. It is the absence of these latter qualities in the majority that gives the minority such good returns for their efforts. Apply yourself to what ever is in hand and stick to it until everything possible has been done to make it a success. If the project is any good and the methods are right, success must follow.

Lesson of a Blighted Pear Tree.

Infected in measure by the spirit of the mad race for money we run the risk even on the farm of skipping from plans and methods before they are thoroughly tried out to others which perhaps a turn in the market promises quicker returns. This is not the way of nature and in many ways nature is a good teacher. If you gash your hand with a knife, you give the wound an antiseptic wash and nature at once sets about the work of repair. Give her half a chance and she will make the best of a bad break in tissue and she does the same with a plant or the limb of a tree. But she insists on time and an orderly way. Two Bartlett pear trees smitten with blight illustrate the point. After bearing well for two or three years blight set in, the fruit gnarled and one limb after another shrivelled and died. Eventually they were doomed to the axe and the ash heap, but as sometimes happens, through neglect they were not cut down as cumberers of the garden. The trunks and root systems seem to have retained their vitality and vigor. The following spring some new shoots started out and up from what was left of healthy wood. They looked promising. So instead of chopping down the trees mercilessly and planting anew, which would have suited some nurserymen better, the idea was suggested of cut-

ting away all the dead wood and giving the new growths, by a little judicious pruning, every opportunity to show what they could do. A few scattering blossoms appeared and these fruited well. By the succeeding season the trees had become fairly shapely and between them bore several bushels of luscious pears. This season the prospect is still better. In addition to the use of the knife and pruning saw the trees were sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. The gnarls and spots also disappeared from the fruit and altogether the little experiment conducted with patience, proved very gratifying. This experience is no argument for dilatory or happy-go-lucky methods in the orchard or on the farm. Probably no better working editorial rule was ever observed in the office of a periodical than not to take things for granted. It is just about as useful on the farm. Do not jump at conclusions even about a blighted fruit tree. Before consigning it to the wood pile take stock. Examine carefully what is left. If there is a prospect, nurture it. Give nature a chance. She may surprise you to your profit, and what is worth more than mere gain, to your deep satisfaction.

Good Grades a Good Start.

While under certain conditions it is more profitable to keep all pure-bred live stock than to endeavor to make money with grades, it is not by any means an established fact that there is no profit to be made from some classes of grade animals. Under no circumstances is it advisable to use grade sires, but to the man with limited capital or to him who wishes to make a reasonable return on a comparatively small outlay grade stock of the right class offers opportunities which cannot be ignored. There is no need of going into details further than to direct the attention of readers to an article in the Dairy Department of this paper which shows what has been and may be made from the right kind of grade dairy cows purchased at the right price, and fed the right kinds and amounts of feed. The scales and the test tell whether or not the cow is worthy of a place in the herd. Her breeding is not given much consideration. She is bought on the strength of appearance and individuality, and is placed under test. If she fulfils the 8,000-pound requirements she is considered profitable enough to hold her place in the herd. If she fails she is considered a better beef cow than she is a dairy producer, and goes to the butcher. This class of producer is not overly common amongst pure-breds. She is even scarcer amongst grades, but, provided she is obtained, she can scarcely be anything else than profitable. An eight to ten-thousand-pound grade cow is usually sold by a man who never weighs or tests, simply as "a big milker which fills a ten or twelve-quart pail at a milking" for from \$70 to \$100; while a pure-bred cow giving the same amount of milk would likely bring from \$200 to \$400. There is considerable difference in the outlay, which means much to the beginner. We must not forget though that with the pure-bred the breeder has the added opportunity of selling breeding stock which is no small consideration. But there is a place for the money-making grade cow, and farmers owning grade stock should apply the tests to them just as rigidly as though they were pure-breds entered in the Record of Merit or Record of Performance tests. Do not despise a cow because she is a grade, but find out what she is doing for you and then pass judgment. A