

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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While better farming, on the average, is being done now than formerly in Eastern Canada, to which the educational campaign of the past twenty-five years for improved methods in agriculture and live-stock rearing has contributed very materially, it is undoubtedly true, and this may have been in the mind of the Ontario Premier when making the statement we have taken as the basis of this article, that by more careful, thorough and intensive methods of farming, the improved farms of these Provinces are easily capable of producing nearly double the returns in crops and live stock that they are now doing, a striking instance of which was given in our last issue, in the experience of Mr. J. C. Shaw, of Oxford County, Ontario, in increasing the returns from a neglected farm by improved cultivation and intelligent methods of husbandry. There are now presenting themselves, opportunities for specializing on smaller areas of land specially adapted for the purpose in such industries as sugar-beet culture, poultry-rearing, fruit-growing, etc., that can be made more remunerative than general mixed farming, particularly when access to good markets for some of these products is assured by means of cold storage and proper transportation facilities. It is true that better farming means more labor, while the increasing difficulty of securing satisfactory help on the farm is a serious problem. Labor-saving machinery is doing much towards enabling the farmers to cope with that difficulty, but cannot possibly overcome it wholly, and farmers must set their wits to work in order to meet this emergency. The remedy may be found, possibly, as suggested, by specializing on smaller farms, giving the sons an interest in the farm, renting, or letting out on shares, under stipulations as to methods of cultivation, rotation of crops, the growing of clover, etc., or, it may be, in the building of laborers' cottages, and securing married men as help on the farm, their wives finding employment and income from boarding the single men, thus lightening

the work of the farmer's wife and daughters, where domestic help is scarce and hard to secure. There are many well-to-do farmers, with fat bank accounts, who are working harder than they should, or would, if satisfactory help could be had. Such men could well afford to build a cottage or two for hired men whose families would also be available as help, and the rent of a cottage might nearly, if not quite, cover the interest on the cost, while a more reliable and permanent class of labor could, doubtless, be secured, and the farmer himself would not need to work so hard. The good crops and general prosperity prevailing in recent years has served to place the majority of farmers in comfortable circumstances financially. They are entitled to more leisure than most of them are enjoying, and it does appear reasonable to suggest that by the adoption of intelligent business methods in connection with their calling they may secure more of both profit and pleasure in its pursuit than, as a rule, they are receiving.

### The Abomination of Shoddy.

The unjust competition sheep-breeders and wool-growers in Canada have had to contend with in the matter of shoddy goods has been, and is, most discouraging and disheartening. The high and honorable place once held in popular regard by woolen fabrics has been degraded by the wretched trash produced by the mixture of shoddy, cotton and other adulterations, and wool-growers have, in this regard, a real grievance, which calls loudly for legislative action for their protection; while the public, who buy and pay good money for clothing, the composition of which they have no means of discerning, are deceived and robbed by the fair appearance of fabrics which, in the wearing, prove a delusion and a snare. Besides the thousands of tons of filthy rags and cast-off clothes worked over into shoddy goods, there was imported into Canada, free of duty, for manufacturing purposes, in the last year, "noils" (woolen waste, or short staple wool combed out in the factory from the long staple wool, and used in the composition of the inferior noil yarns) valued at \$206,914, and in the last five years, to the value of \$841,101, all of which stuff, together with the unstaed, but enormous, supply from the rag-bag, comes into direct competition with the product of the wool-growers of the country in the market for manufactured goods. Protests, it is true, have, from time to time, been registered by the representatives of the sheep-breeders' associations of the Dominion, and petitions presented to Parliament for redress of their grievance, but without avail. There is little wonder that, under such circumstances, our flocks have been steadily diminishing, and that in many parts of Eastern Canada, where formerly a flock of sheep was found on nearly every farm, one may not now see a sheep in a day's drive, the industry having been abandoned by the great majority of farmers, owing, largely, to the discouraging prices prevailing for wool. If it were a real advantage to the consuming or purchasing public that this class of goods should be allowed a place in the market for clothing under a misleading name, there would be some show of justification for its encouragement, but it goes without saying that such goods must be unsatisfactory in the wearing, to say nothing of the risks to the health of the wearer from possible disease germs in goods made from rags gathered from no one knows where, and from the terrible accidents by fire igniting the cotton clothing of women and children, so frequently occurring. Were the good old-fashioned woollen clothing in use such accidents could hardly occur. Many people entertain the mistaken idea that woollen underwear in hot weather is objectionable, yet it is a fact that British soldiers in hot climates, such as India, are compelled by army regulations, as a matter of health preservation, to wear woollen underclothing, and such is the custom of all well-informed Europeans when in the tropics, and of the most prudent people in any country. The subject is one of importance which has not received the attention which its gravity demands. The army of consumers, as well as the smaller number of wool-growers, suffer from the extensive adulteration of woollen goods with shoddy.

It is absolutely necessary for the protection of purchasers that woollen fabrics shall be so marked that non-expert purchasers shall be enabled to know what they are paying for. The proposal is not a new one, but is in line with an agitation in Great Britain and the United States. It is significant that other organizations besides that of the sheep-breeders are taking up the question, the latest being the Maritime Board of Trade, which, at its last meeting, held recently at Moncton, N. B., unanimously adopted the following resolution, moved by Mr. F. G. Bovyer, of Georgetown, P. E. I., and seconded by Captain Reid, of Summerside:

"Whereas the Maritime Provinces are eminently adapted to the wool-raising industry, and woollen cloths are at times manufactured containing inferior substances; Therefore, resolved that it is desirable that the Government be requested to place such restrictions on manufacturers as will compel all woollen fabrics to be plainly marked as to proportion of pure wool or adulterations therein contained, in a manner similar to the legal restrictions placed by Government on manufactured imitations of dairy products, such as oleomargarine, filled cheese, etc."

The way to accomplish the object of this resolution, which should appeal to the sound sense of the people generally, is to agitate for its adoption at farmers' meetings, through the press, and by personal letters to members of Parliament, urging them to forcibly direct the attention of the Government to the injustice and unreasonableness of allowing the shoddy business to flourish under false pretensions in competition with one of the most worthy industries of the farming community.

### The Farmer's Advocate is a Trade Getter.

Messrs. A. McGill & Son, Chatsworth, Ont., manufacturers of threshing machines, tread-powers, ensilage cutters, etc., write us: "We must say that your paper is one of the best trade-getters we have ever tried. Nine out of ten enquirers say they saw the advertisement in the 'Farmer's Advocate.'"

### HORSES.

#### Stages of Growth in Horses.

One of the great tests of a scientific investigator is his ability to apply the results to some practical purpose. A scientist of note, Professor Cosser Ewart, has been able to do this to the great benefit of the horse-breeding public. Some time ago we brought to the attention of our readers his work, which threw light on the reason "Why mares break service." In this article we bring to our readers the results of an investigation as noted above, and shall show how such may be applied.

Some years ago certain naturalists were wont to maintain that plants and animals had reached their present stage of development through the operation of internal (innate) forces. Now, however, the belief is all but universal that organisms are what they are today because of the operation of external forces—that they have reached their present stage through the ever-present influence from generation to generation of the external surroundings or environment. If during the past the environment (which includes not only the food, temperature, and other like influences, but also the influence living things have on each other) has been the means of producing so marvellous results—of not only causing variation, but also of playing the part of the selector—it may be safely assumed that changes in the external conditions may even in a single lifetime lead to very decided modifications—not necessarily of a permanent (hereditary) kind—in, say, the size and fitness, the time at which maturity is reached, and more especially in the germ cells from which the next generation springs. Just as in olden times the elephant in certain areas dwindled in size to form pigmies, measuring sometimes only thirty-six inches, so the horse gradually dwindled to form certain pigmy breeds, which (as in the Shetland Islands) were often as small as the little elephants that in olden times flourished in what is now the Island of Malta.

If the external conditions were sufficient in (geologically speaking) a comparatively short time to dwarf the horse until it was actually smaller than the "fossil horses" of the remote Eocene epoch, it is not surprising that man—with his wonderful control over nature—is able even in a single generation to greatly modify the horse and other domestic animals. That in a few centuries the large, highly-nervous race-horse, with his wonderful speed and courage, has been evolved out of Eastern and native ponies is a matter of history, and everybody knows that while some are now engaged in breeding pigmy horses little over 30 inches in height,

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